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South Africa and sanctions issue dominates the Euro summit

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Hague summit was planned as a perfectly normal meeting of European Community heads of government, with the emphasis on subdued economic optimism, the slow progress of the common domestic market, the "Europe of citizens" and still unresolved agricultural policy issues.

Instead the 12 heads of state and government unexpectedly found themselves at a South Africa summit in the hermetically sealed-off Foreign Ministry in the Dutch capital.

Their summer summit presented anything but a clear view of the geographically and politically far-off, crisis-torn Cape.

Not even what Europeans had to learn from the Chernobyl catastrophe or the threat of trade war with the United States was enough to dissuade the host, Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, and the other 11 Common Market leaders from making South Africa the outstanding conference issue.

It had been clear for weeks that Europeans were increasingly worried by the South Africa problem.

Since the imposition of a state of emergency European governments from Copenhagen to Rome have been wondering what attitude to take toward Pretoria.

Were economic sanctions really an appropriate response to a situation that was deteriorating by the day?

The Dutch, Irish, Danes and Italians in particular had called for an embargo on imports of fruit, vegetables, wine and various other products from South Africa, whereas Britain and Germany were opposed to sanctions.

It was immediately clear at the Hague summit that there were now three opponents of sanctions, not two.

The Portuguese have misgivings about economic restrictions because some 600,000 Portuguese migrants from Mozambique and Angola now live and work in South Africa, mainly earning their living in agriculture.

France and Spain adopted a middle-of-the-road approach. They were not among the most strident advocates of sanctions but didn't altogether rule them out.

Given their evident differences of opinion, European Community heads of government might have been expected to err on the side of caution in dealing with so sensitive an issue, limiting themselves to generalisation.

Far from it. Some summiteers were surprised to find there was plain speaking on the subject from the outset.

Chancellor Kohl of Germany was particularly outspoken, saying South Africa was on the brink, the apartheid system had finally turned down a blind alley and the country would be increasingly embroiled in civil war unless all concerned got back round the conference table.

The crucial issue was whether Europe was willing and able to lend an on-the-spot hand to help South Africa to restore peace in a reasonable manner or preferred merely to take a public stand against Pretoria to appease domestic opinion. The Chancellor may here particularly have had the Danes and Dutch in mind, both of whose governments face strong public pressure, for different reasons, and accordingly advocate sanctions. Even before Mrs Thatcher voiced her views on South Africa the Chancellor made it clear how he felt about sanctions. He was opposed to them in both principle and practice. "Has there ever been a single sanction," he asked, "that has had the desired effect?" Summiteers later said no-one had been able to satisfactorily answer this question. When he went on to refer to some demands made by sanctions advocates as hypocrisy, a number of delegates looked somewhat embarrassed. It is hard to see how the Dutch, for instance, can justify banning the import of Kruger rands while continuing to permit the import of gold bullion from South Africa.

What point, for that matter, can there possibly be in restricting imports of coal and steel from South Africa but imposing no restrictions on imports of platinum, manganese, chromium and other precious metals?

There was an obvious temptation to suspect such moves as being mere window-dressing.

Mr Lubbers for one was said to have pondered over this point, and other sanctions advocates will have reappraised their views too.

The Chancellor's words clearly impressed President Mitterrand, at whose side Premier Chirac was permitted to make the occasional comment.

The French head of state, who cannot be denied an aptitude for thinking in terms of history, may have had the failure of Napoleon's Continental blockade of Britain in mind when he expressed appreciation of the views outlined by his "friend" Helmut Kohl.

M. Mitterrand warned against premature moves against South Africa and nearly everyone was agreed that positive measures must now be discussed with South Africa.

How, for instance, could the blacks

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The world in Maradona's hands

Argentina captain Diego Maradona, watched by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid (left) and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl, savours the big moment after his team's 3-2 win over West Germany in the final of the world soccer cup in Mexico City. (Photo: dpa)





PEN pals

More than 400 writers from 62 countries attended the 84th International PEN congress in Hamburg. It was opened by Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker (right) seen here talking to Günter Grass. (Photo: dpa)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

East of Suez, an ocean still waits for its new master

Frankfurter Allgemeine

While the British Empire existed, Britain ruled the waves of the Indian Ocean. Then, in 1947, India was partitioned and granted independence.

The British naval presence and bases from Cyprus to Hong Kong lost their reason for existence.

Twenty years later the Sun had set on the Empire almost everywhere east of Suez.

What now is at stake is who is to step into Britain's shoes. India itself would like to claim as its own the ocean that bears its name.

But the theory of non-alignment, the practice of policies of national interest, two aircraft carriers and a medium-sized navy are unlikely to be enough.

Superpower America staked its claim in June 1983 by setting up a central command for South-West Asia and the northern Indian Ocean.

The US horizon is beginning to extend to the unsafe coastlines of Africa and Asia.

Diego Garcia, an island without a native population, is a safe unit of account for the United States, an unsinkable aircraft carrier moored in the Indian Ocean.

From north to south the Soviet Union *seeks by subversion and military aid to gain a foothold along the coastline of the Indian Ocean basin.*

The Russians have a large-scale strategy and plan from Cairo to the Cape, just like Britain did.

Despite setbacks in Egypt and Somalia they still maintain a chain of strategic naval rights and want to extend the chain toward South Africa.

The Indian sub-continent used to be the jewel in the crown of the British Empire, a jewel set in the Indian Ocean with fourfold access via South Africa, Suez, Singapore and Australia.

The British knew the Royal Navy had to rule the waves if the Empire was to retain power over the land.

The Cape today is in the throes of civil war and retains little of the Good Hope with which European navigators associated it.

In Europe strategic concepts extend at best to the southern tip of Africa and bear in mind the end of Boer power there.

But the crucial geostrategic role of the Cape route still exists and Western industrial states have few if any substitutes for South Africa's strategic mineral resources.

The Suez route that has traversed the Middle East since the French built the canal in 1869 is bordered by war and civil war.

From Aden, where the British flag used to fly, the Russians are in a position to seal off access between South Yemen and Ethiopia.

Beyond Aden and the Horn of Africa there are not just the Gulf oil reserves on land and off-shore; there is the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and uncertainty as to the future of Pakistan.

To the east, where the Indian Ocean meets the Pacific, Guam and the US bases in the Philippines have taken over the role Singapore played for Britain until it fell to Japan in 1941.

Subic Bay and Clark Airfield are America's largest naval and air bases overseas. It remains to be seen whether the fall of President Marcos and his men will help to preserve Western influence in the region.

Of the four access routes to the Indian Ocean Australia alone remained unchanged, but Mr Hawke's Labour government is on the lookout for a new security concept, anti-nuclear currents are gaining ground and Australian participation in SDI is ruled out.

Australia is keen to find ways of loosening its close military ties with the United States. A barrier that once extended north to Singapore is being called into question.

The British Empire is past history and the Europeans are not among its heirs. Britain still plays a military role in the Arabian peninsula but France alone retains power-political importance between Djibouti and the Kerguelen Islands.

Our role may extend to confidence-building, cooperation and political assistance, but over and above these there is neither support nor a concept nor the means for a European sphere-of-influence policy.

Yet the Indian Ocean will not be left to its own devices. Nature and power are alike in their *horror vacui.*

Alfred T. Mahan was the 19th century US admiral who showed the US Navy the way from a troop transport undertaking to a blue water fleet.

He felt naval power had always been and was sure to remain the *sine qua non* of world power in history.

Mahan taught the US Navy, and not just the Navy, to think in these terms even though he could have no idea of the civil and proxy wars that rage along the coast of today's Indian Ocean.

He can have had no more idea of the extended routes taken by nuclear submarines to ensure second-strike capacity or of the importance of the Indian Ocean for defence against Soviet satellites that orbit low over it.

But he knew that the ocean between the oceans contained the stuff of which world power was made. The country that controls the Indian Ocean, he said, will control Asia.

The Indian Ocean held the key to the seven seas. The world's future would be decided in its waters in the 21st century.

There are political, economic and strategic reasons why Europeans would do well to recall that east of Suez is not so far off — any more than than 21st century is!

Michael Stürmer
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 June 1986)

Bulgaria, Rumania: Warsaw Pact's chalk and cheese

Bulgaria is unconditionally subservient towards Moscow. It behaves as if it were even more orthodox than Moscow.

In contrast, Rumania likes going it alone sometimes.

The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact must come to terms with sharp contrasts in their southern sector.

Little Bulgaria gazes admiringly at the mighty Soviet Union and is keen to emulate it. Bulgarian delegates returned enthusiastically from the 27th Soviet Communist Party congress and stuck close to Soviet topics at their own 13th Party congress.

Rumania clearly attaches greater importance to its own interests.

There are two theories on relations between Moscow and Bucharest. One is that Rumanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu pursues an independent line. The other that it is all talk and that, in principle, he toes the Soviet line.

Mr Ceausescu's spectacular disarmament and peace initiatives have almost become routine. A year ago, for instance, he suggested a unilateral 10-per-cent troop reduction by the Warsaw Pact.

The East Bloc has never seriously considered this proposal and his latest call for a 50-per-cent cut in military spending by both blocs has gone similarly unnoticed.

Rumania's alleged opposition to a 20-year renewal of the Warsaw Pact last year was not sustained; Mr Ceausescu's was the first "fraternal country" to approve the renewal without a murmur.

Western diplomats feel Moscow is putting Rumania's economic hardship to good use in forging closer links.

Fuel and power are scarce and in winter Rumanians freeze in the dark. Food is exported to earn hard currency, so long queues outside food shops are part of everyday life.

Rumania used to be the only socialist country not to have ordered Soviet power reactors; its nuclear power stations have Canadian reactors. But closer nuclear cooperation with Moscow is now envisaged.

Mr Ceausescu's critics accuse him of pursuing an independent foreign policy line to secure preferential trading terms in the West.

Rumania is the only socialist country to enjoy most favoured nation status, which makes it much easier to export goods and produce to the United States.

It is now reported from Brussels that negotiations on a trade agreement with the European Community are to be held soon. Rumania would be the first East Bloc country to take this step too.

The Ceausecu clan have Rumania firmly under control. Mr Ceausescu's wife Elena is not only Deputy Premier and Minister of Science; she is also a member of the eight-member politbureau.

So she and her husband account for a quarter of the votes in the Party's highest ruling body, while son Nico, 34, is Minister of Youth Affairs and a candidate member of the politbureau.

Nepotism is rife in other corridors of power. The best-loved son of the people, as Rumanian newspapers call Mr Ceasescu, lives in a palace in the Rumanian capital.

Neighbouring Bulgaria is more unassuming. Head of state and Party leader Todor Zhivkov brought only his daughter Ludmila Zhivkova as Arts Minister into the government; she died of cancer in 1981.

Western experts feel she was a gain for the country. Mr Zhivkov, who is 74,

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Euro summit

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be better helped? How could they be offered better job training and the like?

Besides, the seriousness of the situation must be made clear to Pretoria, as must the extent to which Europe was worried and the sheer impossibility of apartheid.

"We may not decide on sanctions," Herr Kohl said after the 12 leaders had held further after-dinner talks on South Africa at the Dutch capital's Baroque town hall, "but that doesn't mean we are simply avoiding the issue."

European Community leaders spent two days discussing not well-known domestic difficulties but, for the most part, South Africa.

That alone may have been a "signal" President Botha took seriously in Pretoria; not, perhaps, as intended by Mr Lubbers and others, but as a final warning nonetheless.

This point was underscored by Premier Gonzalez of Spain, who suggested serving President Botha a kind of ultimatum. If specific reforms aimed at ending apartheid were not in evidence by the beginning of August sanctions might have to be imposed after all.

Whether they will is another matter. All that can be said for *sure is* that Britain, as incoming chairman of the European Council, will hold a responsibility for South Africa as a country for which Whitehall has always felt particularly responsible.

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Botha may be satisfied for the time being, although Mrs Thatcher would seem to be under pressure from the *Commonwealth,* which has long called for moves against South Africa.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe flew with his Belgian and Dutch counterparts to Pretoria to negotiate relaxation of apartheid, but Mrs Thatcher seems keener to negotiate with President Botha.

At all events the Commonwealth conference in London early in August should clarify matters.

So the 12 heads of government can basically be satisfied with the Hague summit and return to World Cup soccer, the subject that held pride of place on the eve of the summit.

Chancellor Kohl, who was due to fly to Mexico for the World Cup final, was congratulated on the German team's performance against France (who were beaten 2-0 by Germany in the semi-finals).

Football, it was said, had not soured the summit atmosphere [illegible] suggested the European Commission might consider nominating a European football team.

But it is [illegible] was ruled out. The team would almost certainly score nothing but own goals.

Peter Hort
([illegible] Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 June 1986)

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Armchair ride for Kvitsinsky.
(Photo: dpa)

■ BONN

Big Two envoys accused of breaking diplomatic rules

The behaviour of both the American and Soviet ambassadors is annoying Bonn. Both Richard Burt and Yuli Kvitsinsky are accused of taking a casual attitude towards long-standing rules of diplomatic restraint.

Burt has been accused of being *undiplomatic* and impertinent. Kvitsinsky is accused of openly taking sides on political issues.

The latest reason for annoyance is a discussion in Bonn organised by a group called the Coordination Committee of the Peace Movement.

Guest speakers included a well-known opponent of Strategic Defence Initiative, Professor Dürr, of Munich, but the star was Ambassador Kvitsinsky.

The discussion centred round proposals by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the beginning of the year.

It was a one-sided, round-table discussion with Kvitsinsky seated in the chairman's position, flanked by members of the peace movement.

He was questioned for three hours. The questions lacked bite, so for three hours he was able to plug Soviet policies in brilliant German.

He was at no stage contradicted.

US ambassador Burt turned down an invitation to attend and members of the Bonn government and coalition parties are also reported to have refused.

Some of the questions put to Kvitsinsky were kept free of possible snags when he was told that his reply naturally need no go into detail — for example, to the question of whether the Soviet Union has a research project which can match SDI.

After the session, Kvitsinsky gave a Press conference.

There is no denying that Moscow pins high hopes on the peace movement's policies.

But the formal aspect is that here is a foreign ambassador openly taking sides.

The Bonn Foreign Office reacted slightly indignantly when asked how it felt about Kvitsinsky's behaviour and its compatibility with diplomatic etiquette.

There seems to be a trend in the way the big powers practice diplomacy towards Bonn.

Both Burt and Kvitsinsky are practising this new casualness. Within a short space of time, the two have swept aside the lack of clarity in the 1961 Vienna diplomatic convention and discarded classic rules of diplomatic restraint.

Bonn has already made it clear that it is not amused by this new style.

Shortly after he was accredited to Bonn in April this year Kvitsinsky was sharply criticised by the minister of state in the Bonn Chancellery, Wolfgang Schäuble, for an interview given to the *Bild* newspaper.

In this interview Kvitsinsky openly criticised Bonn's policies, especially its stance on disarmament and arms control.

In an official statement Schäuble referred to a "poor start" by Kvitsinsky.

The weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* claimed that Richard Burt had called Bonn's Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a "slippery man".

Burt criticised Bonn's reaction to the US bombing of Tripoli and called it "half-hearted".

On the same day as the Bonn hearing with Kvitsinsky officials in Bonn heard about an interview Burt gave to the *Rheinischer Merkur* newspaper.

One Bonn official claimed that Burt's interview was full of "gestures of grandeur" and that he sounded like a "proconsul".

Unvarnished, undiplomatic and impertinent were just three of the words used to describe his interview.

Some parts of the interview, officials maintained, (e.g. those relating to Salt II or American troops in Europe) reflected a position which had nothing to do with the equality of allies.

Kvitsinsky's and Burt's predecessors in ambassadorial office preferred a more refined approach.

Semyonov and Burns knew how to get their political message across without publicly criticising the policies of their host country's government.

Nevertheless, both Burt and Kvitsinsky know how to handle public relations.

Burt does this in a very American way, actively playing in a band, for example, during a recent charity ball organised by Chancellor Kohl's wife.

He's a man who does make an impression, even more so if he is accompanied by his attractive wife Gale.

Although no less an impressive man of the world Yuli Kvitsinsky is not so fond of such capitalist pleasures.

The extent of conformity to the customs of respective host countries would appear to be clearly defined by socialist etiquette.

Kvitsinsky, however, who was the Soviet negotiator in Geneva during talks on medium-range missiles, is familiar with the tools of public relations at international conference venues.

He makes clever use of this experience in Bonn.

He recently invited Western journalists, for example, to come along to his embassy in Bonn to listen to the first and so far only speech by Mikhail Gorbachev on the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

The Soviet ambassador is also clever in other respects, inviting people along to press conferences more regularly and issuing more statements than his predecessors.

The Soviet embassy in Bonn no longer resembles an impenetrable fortress.

Admittedly, Kvitsinsky has a more enviable position than his American colleague.

The current Soviet policies meet with a much more positive response in Bonn than those pursued by the US administration.

What is more, Kvitsinsky is almost eleven years older than his American opposite number and can thus fall back on greater political experience (Burt is only 39 years old).



Burt showing casual approach.
(Photo: dpa)

No Soviet diplomat is as strongly criticised by Bonn's Opposition during public discussions as US ambassador Burt.

The Soviet embassy, with its new propaganda look, is also afforded greater journalistic interest than the traditionally more "accessible" US embassy.

Kvitsinsky seems to be the right man to sell the new image.

In the eyes of his critics, including those who are pro-American, Burt also embodies the tougher line America is currently taking in its dealings with its allies.

Burt does the job, however, with the kind of charm Ronald Reagan is also reputed to have.

Both ambassadors do not appear to be unduly concerned about the criticism levelled against their political style.

Bonn will have to get used to the fact that the struggle to influence public opinion in the Federal Republic of Germany is more important than diplomatic etiquette.

Eduard Neumaier
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 13 June 1986)

Europe told to step up own effort in space

Europe must become an international space power in its own right during the 21st century, says a report.

The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik* (German Society for Foreign Affairs) in Bonn, a circle of influential politicians, academic experts and public officials, calls for independent European space research efforts.

The society's director, Karl Kaiser, said in presenting the report that if Europe didn't develop its own capacities, it would become totally dependent.

Western Europe, the report insists, should participate in the Hermes project, the originally French idea of constructing a European space shuttle.

This has nothing to do with mistrust towards the USA, but with the fact that Europe should be taken seriously as a partner.

This is why the report emphasises the aspect of "autonomy".

The nature and extent of German involvment in the Hermes project is still undecided within the Bonn government coalition.

Wolfgang Finke, who until recently was the head of a department in the Ministry for Research and Technology, is among the 26 members of the group of experts who take responsibility for the report's recommendations.

Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber (CDU) recently suspended Finke, who is an ardent supporter of the Hermes idea.

A final decision on the project is expected this autumn.

This, however, would only be a declaration of support in principle without outlining the details of Bonn's involvement.

According to Kaiser, the report sets out to "stimulate political discussion".

State secretary and head of policy planning staff in the Ministry of Defence, Lothar Rühl and Hans Rühle, and minister of state, disarmament commissioner and head of policy planning staff in the Bonn Foreign Office, Lutz Stavenhagen, Friedrich Ruth and Konrad Seitz, are also among the authors of the report.

As Kaiser pointed out, the group "deliberately decided" not to make its own financing proposals.

"An analysis based on financial feasibility would not do justice to the project," said Kaiser.

What is needed, he stressed, is a "look towards the future".

The report refers to a figure of DM870m as the amount currently earmarked in the government budget for space projects.

This figure will have doubled by 1990, the report claims.

Neverthless, Kaiser emphasises that more money is needed if the Federal Republic wishes to keep up with other nations such as France, in this field.

The cabinet member most openly opposed to granting more money for highly ambitious space projects is Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg (CDU).

The Bonn government, which has already decided to participate in the US space station project Columbus, should, the experts say, also join in the Hermes European space-shuttle project.

The report would like to see the Hermes project organised by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The project to construct a European reconnaissance satellite, however, should not, says the report.

In view of the military character of such a project responsibility should be assigned to the Western European Union (WEU).

The WEU, a post-war European military alliance, is currently being promoted again by a number of Western European governments.

The original concept for a reconnaissance satellite (espionage satellite) developed by France, the report adds, failed to materialise.

Some experts feel that the idea should again be taken up by the whole of Europe.

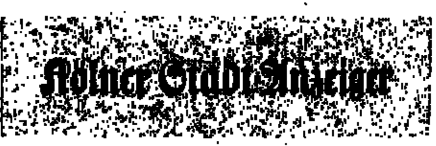
Most of the "dissenting opinions" expressed by six of the experts in the report relate to the US space research programme SDI.

They strongly contest that SDI will lead to beneficial civilian spin-off effects.

Horst Schreitter-Schwarzenfeld
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 June 1986)

■ THE PARTIES

Strangely subdued mood at the CSU conference



CSU conferences are not usually subdued affairs. But this year's one at Nuremberg was.

The party seems for the moment to have lost its habit of being quarrelsome, supercilious, know-all and aggressive.

The conference was very much a pause for thought. It was an attitude that had the backing of the CSU leader and Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss.

The few delegates who objected to this suddenly found themselves out on a limb.

There is a clear connection between the CSU's mood and attitudes towards nuclear power following Chernobyl.

Another reason for the mood is the evident impossibility of arriving at agricultural policies acceptable to farmers in either the north or south of the country.

Herr Strauss criticised what he sees as the failure of the Bonn government to convince voters that its economic, financial and social policies have been a success.

At several points in his address Herr Strauss expressed horror at the consequences of this failure and issued a warning.

It just couldn't be true, he said, that the Social Democrats and Greens, an unthinkable coalition choice, enjoyed the support of almost a majority of the electorate. Their share was about 40 per cent.

He was most insistent that 51 per cent for the CDU/CSU and FDP combined was not enough; their lead must be much wider.

Even his criticism of the Social Democrats and Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau was not as humorously dismissive as usual. It sounded worried.

Herr Strauss sounded nowhere near as confident of victory in next January's general election as Chancellor Kohl does.

The CSU leader need have no such fears where the 12 October state assembly elections in Bavaria are concerned. His party can shed several per cent and still retain its absolute majority.

So Herr Strauss was not just bragging when he said the CSU was the most successful political party in Western Europe; that is a statistically proven fact.

Now Herr Strauss has paused for thought, due in part to the state assembly election results in Lower Saxony, Chancellor Kohl and the CDU and FDP in Bonn probably feel some of their coalition worries are over for the time being.

The CSU leader has finally decided to loyally share power in Bonn, and not to push CSU principles but to do all he can to make sure the CDU/CSU-FDP coalition retains its majority.

He even heeded the advice of the previous speaker, Chancellor Kohl, to ring each other's praises.

In a far cry from his customary trenchant criticism of the poor election showing "up north" he chose to agree with his erstwhile rival Ernst Albrecht, Lower Saxony's CDU Premier, that the Christian Democrats had done well there.

He used the same arithmetical acrobatics as Herr Albrecht to explain why a six-per-cent decline in electoral support for the CDU in Lower Saxony was still a "good result."

He was even gentle in his treatment of the Free Democrats, not normally a party *he has a good word for (he and SPD ex-Chancellor Schmidt would be only too happy to see the back of the FDP).*

The CSU leader made do without his usual reference to the FDP's inglorious past (in coalition with the SPD). He no longer complained that the Liberals "stole" votes from the CDU/CSU or said they were superfluous.

"There is no sensible alternative," he said, "to the CDU/CSU coalition with the FDP."

A politician who is forced to correct himself and bow to political realities to the extent that Herr Strauss has been will be well aware that in future he will have even greater difficulty in gaining Bonn coalition approval of a point that is not to the FDP's liking.

Besides, Chancellor Kohl is known to prefer the Free Democrats, his junior coalition partners, to the CSU, the Bavarian wing of his own Christian Democrats.

Herr Strauss has already changed his tune. He no longer calls on the FDP to agree to criminal code amendments beefing up the law on demonstrations.

He now "urgently implores" the government to take suitable measures to ensure there is no repetition of the violence that has occurred at demonstrations in Wackersdorf and elsewhere.

He only sounded at all strident in condemning the Free Democrats' refusal to as much as consider a standard-rate old-age pension. In comparison with the Christian Democrats, who are firmly committed to atomic energy, the CSU has made greater headway on the future of nuclear power.

This was most apparent at sessions of the conference working party where Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann was alone in gruffly saying the government's decision was final.

But he has already paid the price of being stripped of responsibility for atomic energy, which is now part of Walter Wallmann's Environmental Affairs portfolio, and the CSU had no objections. Indeed, Herr Zimmermann was criticised by fellow-members of the CSU.

Herr Strauss has already branched out in new directions. He knows how crucially important the nuclear power issue is going be to the balance of political power.

He may not refer to a phase-out of atomic energy but he does say more clearly than most CDU/CSU leaders that nuclear power is only a temporary solution to be replaced as soon as possible.

No other CDU/CSU politician, not even Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber, has yet been so clear and detailed in saying when and how energy alternatives are hoped to be available.

At times there is speculation in the CSU over a successor to Herr Strauss, 70, as party leader when he shows signs of weakness. There was none this time.

He alone made the sole reference to the subject when mentioning the fact that he had led the CSU for 25 years.

A Cabinet Minister in Bonn, he said, had realised he could not hope to lead the CSU satisfactorily from afar, as it were.

He, the Minister, had preferred not to stand for the party leadership. That was a hint which is unlikely to have gone unnoticed by the present Bonn Cabinet Minister for whom it was doubtless intended.

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 23 June 1986)

Post mortem on Greens' poll setback

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The Greens came a poor third in the election in Lower Saxony despite Chernobyl and the aftermath.

The party picked up 7.1 per cent of the votes cast, a fraction more than in 1982.

Their poor performance dashed their hopes of holding the balance of power in the Hanover assembly and of thus being able to form, in all but name, a coalition with the Social Democrats.

It was a major setback. Before the election, they had seemed poised for a great leap forward in the *fallout* from Chernobyl.

People were worried and polls indicated a big swing in favour of the anti-nuclear, environmentalist Greens.

The Bonn government's *unfortunate* information policy and *crisis* management mishaps gave the Greens an added bonus. Yet it failed to pay off on election day.

The Greens were perplexed to see the established "pro-nuclear" parties, the Christian and Free Democrats, hold their own at a crucial turning point in German politics.

The only real winners were the similarly "pro-nuclear" Social Democrats.

It is too early to assume that results in Lower Saxony will be repeated in next January's general election. But a number of basic inferences may be drawn that are anything but encouraging for the Greens.

First, emotions can only to a limited extent be cashed in as votes. Voters are not as prone to hysteria as Bundestag Speaker Jenninger surmised.

Even in a commotion they are not disposed to let their hearts rule their heads, let alone run away with them in the polling booth. Votes are cast soberly and unemotionally.

Polling in Lower Saxony also showed the Greens to have remained a protest party capable of attracting a mixed bag but not an increasingly hard core of voters.

Despite the coalition of Social Democrats and Greens in Hesse, the Greens have yet to gain the status of a potential ruling party.

Last not least, as long as the Greens fail to disown violent protest by sympathisers who use bricks, ball bearings and emergency rockets at rallies outside nuclear facilities they will remain a marginal group.

A majority of Germans are opposed to violence.

There seems to be a widespread consensus on the conclusions to be drawn from the poll results in Lower Saxony. Everyone knows the Greens are widely disliked and arrives at his own conclusions on the subject.

The Social Democrats now feel strong enough to ensure that the Greens fail to poll five per cent in January, which would mean the Greens were no longer in the Bonn Bundestag.

SPD Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau hopes this slogan, along with his intention of never joining forces with the Greens, will lend the Social Democrats

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Social Democrats prepare for a change in direction



Godesberg, the conference at which the Social Democrats abandoned outmoded ideology and paved their way to a new role as a *Volkspartei* (popular party, or party of the whole people), was 27 years ago.

But the party probably lost this role in 1982 when it lost power in Bonn.

The Godesberg Manifesto made the SPD acceptable to a wider range of voters, smoothing its path to power-sharing in the 1966-69 Grand Coalition, which was followed by 13 years as senior partner in a Bonn coalition with the Free Democrats.

As times changed the Social Democrats were forced, as a ruling party, to be pragmatic and compromise.

They assumed general responsibility and their Godesberg Manifesto became threadbare as the gap between theory and practice steadily widened.

Just how wide the gap had grown was not apparent until the SPD had returned to the Opposition benches.

Godesberg is now to be replaced by a new policy programme. The new manifesto has been drafted and is shortly to be unveiled.

Some items have already been leaked, perhaps inevitably in an election year, which is a time when it befits a party to show signs of intellectual mobility even if it only involves going round in circles.

The new programme is first to be debated and not to be adopted until 1988. This timing is no coincidence; it too must be seen in an election context.

No-one is going to commit himself to a policy until he knows it is a vote-winner (or at least not a potential vote-loser).

Does a *Volkspartei* even need a policy programme as, let us say, a foundation garment for intra-party use and an alibi for window-dressing?

The SPD needed Godesberg because in 1959 it had yet to emerge as a *Volkspartei*. For a small party like the FDP specific policies may make sense and continue to do so.

But a large party with mass appeal to all sections of society has no need of minority policies designed to ensure it of niches from which to stake its claim to a share in power.

A *Volkspartei* relies on the attraction

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■ PERSPECTIVE

East to stand in a corner by itself at Berlin party



Next year is the 750th anniversary of Berlin. But the birthday plans have been criticised in Germany and elsewhere as being both vague and apolitical.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the East Berlin leaders have no intention of taking part in any joint East-West events.

The only concession so far by the East Germans is to allow some Western orchestras to give concerts in both East and West Berlin on consecutive nights.

The city administration expects that a highlight will be a visit to West Berlin by Western leaders such as President Reagan, President Mitterrand and the British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, following next May's economic summit.

The administration is still in the process of drawing up celebration plans. The chances of running joint events with the Eastern half are becoming more and more remote.

Detlev Stronk, CDU, head of the Senate Chancellery, has held further routine talks with East Berlin state secretary Kurt Löffler, of the Arts Ministry, who is Erich Honecker's man in charge of the celebrations in East Berlin.

There have been no signs of more cordial ties aiming at possible collaboration since the 11th congress of the East German Communist Party.

All the East Germans have agreed on is consecutive concerts in East and West Berlin.

The Vienna Philharmonic, for instance, will be playing first in the Philharmonie in West Berlin, then in the Schauspielhaus in East Berlin.

A leading politician told the West Berlin working party there seemed to be far-reaching differences of opinion among East German leaders on how to observe the anniversary in East Berlin.

There will be no formal invitation to Oberbürgermeister Erhard Krack of East Berlin to attend Western events, but the West's Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen will from time to time be attending such events in East Berlin.

He will be paying a private visit to a central exhibition in the rebuilt Ephraim-Palais, the masonry for which was sent over to East Berlin from the West.

A political consideration of utmost importance is the problem of transit through East Germany for the Tour de France, which is to start in West Berlin next year.

Berlin politicians have called on the Senate to ask Chancellor Kohl to request President Mitterrand to intercede with Herr Honecker to arrange for transit.

The East German leader plans to visit Paris anyway this year of next, having accepted an invitation last summer by M. Fabius, the then French Premier.

The special US commitment to Berlin is reflected by a full-scale Allied gathering arranged for 4 July 1987 in honour of the city's 750th anniversary.

A German approach to the British commandant is no less important. He has been asked to dismantle the barriers set up several hundred yards clear of the Brandenburg Gate.

They were erected several years ago, blocking access to the Soviet war memorial and the Brandenburg Gate, an evocative symbol of the division of Berlin and Germany.

The British, in whose sector the approaches to the Brandenburg Gate lie, took this precaution after a right-wing extremist, Ekkehard Weil, shot and injured a Soviet guard.

The Berlin committeemen felt the mayor of Moscow ought to be invited to the premiere of anniversary festivities in the West on 30 April. The Senate has so far hedged on this point.

On 30 April the Federal President, Richard von Weizsäcker, and Chancellor Kohl and his entire Federal Cabinet will attend the opening ceremony.

So will about 30 mayors from all over the world, including Mayor Kollek of Jerusalem.

The musical accompaniment will be provided not by Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic but by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. LA is Berlin's only twin city.

Hans-R. Karutz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 24 June 1986)

Warsaw Pact

Continued from page 2

was rumoured to be due for retirement at *the Party* congress last April because the younger, dynamic, Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, did not get on too well with him.

Yet Mr Zhivkov held his own. Not even a deputy leader was elected to help him, as happened to Hungarian Party leader Janos Kadar.

This success may be attributed to the Bulgarian leader's policy of appointing bright young men to important positions — and playing them off against each other.

Bulgaria's love of Big Brother Russia is deeply rooted and dates back to Tsar Alexander, who freed the country from Turkish domination in 1878. His equestrian statue still stands in a large square in Sofia.

Ulrike Rudberg

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 29 June 1986)

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of its width of appeal, its readiness to arrive at a consensus, its ability to strike a widely-based compromise and its pursuit of a common denominator that can be sure of acceptance.

Parties in this category doubtless need moral standards, political essentials, a visible framework, perspectives and, perhaps, visions.

More can only be a hindrance to practical politics, which is geared less to programmatic intentions than to the need for pragmatism and flexibility.

Politics is never governed by parties; parties are governed by politics — not in terms of resignation or capitulation but in awareness of a constantly changing challenge that must be faced.

Long-term programmes may sound fine to some, whereas others find them boring because they are too theoretical. They are certainly unsuitable in this context.

SPD leader Willy Brandt sees his party's bid to replace the Godesberg Manifesto as a quest for leadership of German political opinion.

This motivation may be laudable but leadership can only be shown in practice, in day-to-day politics.

Political practice extends no further than the medium term in influence and effect. Visions alone go any further.

Visions as the sole bedrock of policy can lead a party even further astray from the beaten track of political realism with which it may be trying to come to terms.

They certainly aren't a satisfactory perspective for a *Volkspartei*, election or no election.

Walter W. Weber

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 24 June 1986)



Someone did Care: candy bomber coming into Berlin. (Photo: AP)

Care: memories of brown paper parcels and candy bombers

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

If you asked young Germans today what Care stands for, most would give the English meaning of the word.

But for people over 45, the meaning is entirely different.

They remember the brown-paper parcels from America that meant so much in post-war Germany and the Berlin airlift planes known in German as candy bombers.

What many Germans felt at the time was a latter-day fairy tale has taken its place in post-war German history.

"Care saved the lives of millions of Germans and gave them back their true belief in humanity," Chancellor Konrad Adenauer said on 8 April 1953.

His sentiment has been echoed by many other German politicians before and since.

Care, short for Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, started shipping parcels 40 years ago.

The agreement that gave the go-ahead marked the beginning of an enormous aid campaign to post-war Germany that was to last for 14 years.

Immediately after the war, when Germany and many European countries were laid waste and their economies were in the doldrums (German industrial production in 1947 was only 34 per cent of what it had been in 1938), a number of organisations and individuals resolved to help Europe.

They ranged from the Quakers to the trade unions, called themselves Care and called in the name of humanity for aid to be rushed to Europe in general and to America's erstwhile enemies in particular.

Despite the prevailing anti-German sentiment in much of the United States the campaign was endorsed by the US government and enabled to get going.

But where was all the food needed to be found, and how was it to be shipped to Europe and distributed?

The first shipment consisted of 2.8 million US Army rations packets. They were the first Care parcels. They contained sugar, flour, cheese, coffee, cocoa, chocolate and powdered milk.

Each parcel cost the donor first $15, later $10. As the donor was sent a personal acknowledgement of receipt, Care soon enjoyed confidence.

In Germany storage was arranged by welfare organisations, with the government paying shipping costs.

Care reached its peak during the Soviet blockade of Berlin when, from June 1948 to May 1949 the city was supplied by air.

Care chartered planes and flew about 200,000 parcels into the beleaguered city.

Once immediate hardship had been eased Care sent aid to Germany to help people start from scratch: clothing, medicine, tools, agricultural and scientific equipment.

Care, renamed Cooperative for American Relief to Everywhere, gradually withdrew from the Federal Republic in the late 1950s and concentrated on aid to other parts of the world.

The Care mission to the Federal Republic was shut down in mid-1960. West Germany alone had been supplied with goods worth DM346m in an unprecedented gesture of humanity and readiness to lend a helping hand.

The post-war Care went on to become Care International, with chapters in Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada, Norway, Austria and, of course, the United States.

It is active all over the Third World: in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Care's slogan, Our Aid Has Tradition, hits the nail on the head.

Ronald Rothenburger

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 10 June 1986)

■ TRADE

Declining Pacific basin growth defuses debate about German performance there

The author of this article, Bernhard Welschke, works at the foreign trade department of the Confederation of German Industry (BDI) in Cologne.

German firms have been accused of neglecting the dynamic markets of the Asian-Pacific region and concentrating on traditional export markets in Europe and Latin America.

But now the pace of economic growth in the East is slowing, there is less urgency in the debate on Germany's industrial presence there.

Claims that German firms have missed the boat are wrong. The government agrees.

In a reply to a parliamentary question in the Bundestag, it said German companies had adjusted well to the greater domestic and foreign trade potential of countries in the region.

Yet German firms are not doing as well there as major Japanese and US competitors.

Direct investment is a particularly promising way in which to systematically open up major Asian markets.

Strict limits to protection or expansion of German exports are imposed by the endeavours of many countries in the region to safeguard domestic industrial production.

They pursue import substitution policies and impose stringent import curbs.

So direct investment is increasingly becoming less a consequence of or an addition to than a prerequisite for export business.

Experience by German firms shows that investors in the Asian-Pacific region generally need above-average staying-power in comparison with investment and returns elsewhere.

This is due for one to the attractive financial terms offered by Japanese competitors, often linked with public-sector development aid commitments.

Problems also arise in the shape of geographical differences and differences in mentality that need to be taken into account.

They can be extremely daunting for small and medium-sized firms, which between them make up over 80 per cent of German industry.

These companies depend heavily on first-rate back-up and advice from specialists in investment and trade in the countries concerned.

The Confederation of German Industry (BDI) has for some time sought to establish an export infrastructure in keeping with the special opportunities and risks of commitment by small and medium-sized firms in the Asian-Pacific region.

The emphasis is on efficient use and possible improvements in the classic toolkit of export promotion.

Unlike other industrial countries the Federal Republic of Germany is often represented abroad by a wide range of organisations and institutions that look after German economic interests.

They include diplomatic and consular missions, chambers of commerce and German trade delegates and correspondents of the BfAI, or Federal Foreign Trade Information Bureau.

The Bonn government and trade associations agree that this division of labour has generally proved tried and trusted. But industry feels that classic export promotion has failed to keep pace with the growing requirements of German commercial interests, especially in the Pacific.

Bids to step up the manpower of commercial sections at German missions in the region show signs of bearing fruit.

The Foreign Office has been able, within the terms of reference of the 1986 budget, to increase its commercial staff by 48, of whom 24 are mainly to improve the services provided by German embassies in the Far East and the Arab world.

Foreign service staff training and selection criteria are also to be geared to a greater extent to the needs of German trade and industry.

Coordination of field work by export promotion agencies remains essential. It was the subject of a regional conference held by the Foreign Office early this year in Bangkok.

The conference was attended by representatives of German diplomatic and consular missions in the area and by representatives of the various Bonn government ministries, development cooperation organisations and trade associations.

The aim was to consider further measures to lend added, long-term impetus to export and investment endeavours by German companies in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

The emphasis was on collaboration in gathering, relaying and evaluating foreign trade information, which is increasingly processed by computer systems. A number of improvements were proposed.

German industry hopes these suggestions will be put into effect swiftly and consistently. Sufficient flexibility and readiness to collaborate on the part of information carriers and multipliers is indispensable.

Over and above classic export promotion measures consideration is repeatedly given to opportunities of group investment in the region by German companies large and small.

Investment cooperation is an idea borrowed from the leading Japanese trading houses.

The Institute for Research into Technological Lines of Development (ITE) in Hamburg last year presented a survey on this subject commissioned by the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry.

The survey said German firms lacked a coordinated marketing effort and sales strategy comparable with those drawn up by Japanese general trading houses.

This was attributed firstly to the lack of comparable German trading houses and secondly to the lack of coordination by leading German firms.

Given economic conditions in the Federal Republic it would, however, seem neither realistic nor desirable for German firms to close ranks in Japanese manner.

To adopt a "Germany Inc." strategy would be to run the risk of making serious individual and overall economic mistakes.

In the circumstances it would be a substitute for an export promotion policy geared to market forces.

German industrial investment in the Asian-Pacific region could in contrast well benefit from commercial, financial and service sector infrastructure improvements.

The leading German trading houses, many of which can look back on long years of marketing and sales experience in Asia, could play a key role.

To ensure optimum use of this potential, exporters would need to be offered tailor-made marketing concepts over and above the mere handling of transactions.

This calls for on-the-spot investment. A number of well-known German trading houses have already taken the point and offer comprehensive, detailed made-to-measure advice.

It will continue to be for potential investors themselves to decide whether commitments in Asia might prove to their advantage and whether they should consider joining forces with other firms, German or foreign.

Bernhard Welschke

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 19 June 1986)

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fresh impetus at the polls. The Christian and Free Democrats conjure visions of Red-and-Green chaos.

They confidently identify expecting the mere idea of Greens sharing power in Bonn to send voters rushing to the aid of the CDU/CSU-FDP coalition.

The Greens themselves have taken to loudly debating coalition options with a view to manoeuvring themselves out of their political limbo.

It is hardly a promising start. When a party says for more tactical reasons it is prepared to consider joining a coalition but is reluctant to compromise on policy issues it isn't much use.

One can understand the Greens trying to hold on to the SPD's shirt-tails now their popularity seems to have taken a tumble, but they can hardly expect that alone to stop the rot without a radical policy reappraisal.

Social Democrats and Greens are still poles apart on security policy, on many aspects of foreign policy, on economic policy and on environmental issues.

How they could possibly risk joining forces in a coalition is, in the circumstances, a mystery.

As long as the Greens are in their present state there will not be the left-of-centre majority SPD leader Willy Brandt used to advocate.

Since the poll results in Lower Saxony he too will have been well aware of the fact.

Bernd Stadelmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 June 1986)

■ PEOPLE IN COMMERCE

The count at sharp end of the lead-pencil business



Count Anton Wolfgang von Faber-Castell is a man who has a feeling for tradition.

This is not surprising since A.W. Faber-Castell GmbH & Company has been in his family's possession for the past 225 years.

The first "lead pencil" was produced by company founder Kaspar Faber, a carpenter, in 1761.

The company is now famous worldwide for writing and drawing materials.

"The name and the trade mark are our great strengths," said the Count. He said that he aimed at making the company's name synonymous with a modern, progressive organisation.

The latest issue of the house magazine reveals that in a survey 80 per cent of West Germans knew the name Faber-Castell. The publication commented: "This is a praiseworthy market survey result for a medium-sized company."

Faber-Castell employs 4,000. Along with its subsidiaries abroad and companies in which the parent company has a holding sales of DM325m were achieved last year, 16 per cent more than in 1984.

But for a long period it seemed as if the company was heading for severe difficulties. Between 1929 and 1976 Count Roland, father of the present company head, ruled in patriarchal style. Legend has it that he regarded good behaviour and obedience as more important than managerial qualities.

Profits were whittled away by an excessive range of products. Repeatedly land had to be sold to balance the books, and as no clear decision was made about a successor to Count Roland, there was the shadow of inheritance battles between the old Count's five sons hanging over the firm.

Just in the nick of time Count Roland named Count Anton to take over. He had been a successful finance manager in an American company, grooming himself well to revive the fortunes of the family firm.

His first act was to cut the range of 5,000 products by a half. After a lot of wasted time at the beginning he clearly defined the markets for supplying professionals and the general public. He even dared to move towards new technology.

The Faber-Castell Group produces about a billion lead pencils a year. The company is the most important producer of pencils of this kind in the world.

There are already signs, however, that in more and more offices computer-based design systems will push out the drawing-board and coloured pencils.

Nevertheless modern equipment still needs pencils and pens.

Good business opportunities are opening up to supply what is known in the computer industry as the "plotter," used in the first designs from computers.

Faber-Castell now has a good range of these precision items for computers.

There are about 10,000 of them being used daily for drawing in West German companies.

Computer technology is not the only area Count Anton has explored where the know-how of the company's specialists can be used in new markets.

Diversification has been particularly successful in the cosmetics industry producing make-up pencils for such household names as Chanel, Yves St Laurent and the American company Avon.

Now a good 15 per cent of sales are achieved in the cosmetics field.

Faber-Castell proposes to extend its activities in the hobby and leisure market in future. The Count is willing to conclude cooperation, production and distribution agreements with other companies and is not averse to buying-in products from other producers.

The consolidation process at Faber-Castell has been a tough operation, but now Count Anton can concentrate on the future targets of his organisation.

He aims at maintaining a leading position internationally as a producer of a few but well-chosen products, and he intends to extend the company's sales efforts to specialist outlets. He wants to extend the company name as a supplier of high quality products in the medium to high price ranges.

None of this could be achieved, obviously, without strong management support. In the past this has been a problem for Faber-Castell.

In May 1984 Ralph M. Deja, master of a number of languages, left the company to join Apply Computer GmbH of Munich, where he was appointed managing-director.

It is possible that Deja regrets the move because he had to leave Apple.

In September 1984 Peter G.F. Hülls, until then director for marketing and distribution at Faber-Castell, left to become managing director of the rubber-processing company Mapa GmbH in Zeven.

Faber-Castell, it seems, is a happy hunting ground for headhunters.

Count Anton had no alternative but to take over the time-consuming management job himself.

But relief seems in sight and the possibility of realising one of his hopes for a re-organisation of the group.

In September Ulrich Hanke, managing director of Lingner & Fischer GmbH of Bühl (producers of the adhesive Uhu, mouth-wash Odol, Badedas and Dr. Best) is joining Faber-Castell in Stein to be chairman of the three-man board.

Hanke, 45, will take over the marketing division until a new man can be recruited.

Count Anton, a bachelor and a keen amateur sportsman who was almost chosen for the national rowing team, will devote himself to developing the company's strategy and looking for new growth opportunities. He already heads the holding company.

He will also be able to give more attention to an aspect that is certainly not taboo with him — launching Faber-Castell on the stock exchanges, where the company would undoubtedly be regarded with favour.

Count Anton Wolfgang von Faber-Castell . . . diversifying. (Photo: dpa)

The Faber-Castell Castle in Stein was recently used for the filming of a four-part television drama about the destiny of a family in the chemicals industry, entitled *Fathers and Sons*.

The magnificent building with its towers and oriel windows, evidence of the industrial spirit and style of the company's founding years, is only separated from the Faber-Castell factory by the castle grounds.

Like the DM18m television production the family has undoubtedly suffered setbacks and known pleasure within the castle walls.

But Graf Anton now prefers to live in a comfortable bungalow on the edge of Stein.

August Räubinger

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 21 June 1986)

A blonde breaks into male world of life in the Gulf

Women in business are not generally accepted in the devoutly Muslim Gulf states. However an exception is a Hamburg woman, Ilse G. Boësen, a good-looking blue-eyed blonde who is organising an exhibition called "Made in Germany" which is to tour four Gulf states next February. Between 60 and 70 firms will display their products for four days each in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Abu Dhabi. A "German Food Week" is being held at the same time. Frau Boësen is accepted in the Gulf states as "a neutral person," she says with a twinkle in her eye.

She studied business management. She and her husband ran a company which traded with Spain. There she met a Kuwaiti. This contact quickly led to an extension of business interests to the Gulf.

She and her husband separated and Frau Boësen continued to run the business alone. Then the unexpected happened: at the beginning of 1976 she flew for a 14-day trip to Kuwait. She stayed for three years.

There, she was introduced to an influential businessman who was having problems doing his business sums. Frau Boësen, who had cut her teeth at the trading house of Coutinho Caro & Company in Hamburg, was able to help using her business management training. As an expression of gratitude she was able to set up a company in conjunction with four Kuwaitis, aimed at bridging the gap between the different business attitudes of Arabs and Europeans.

She recalls that at the beginning it was hard going. More than once she had her suit-case packed ready to leave. But after about 10 months she noticed that she was generally getting to be accepted.

She flies to Kuwait about ten times a year to see that all goes well with her company.

The "Made in Germany" fair will not be a nine-day wonder. A "German Centre" is to be set up in Hamburg at the same time to act as a kind of export division for medium-sized companies that have forged business relations with the Gulf.

Frau Boësen believes there are big opportunities for firms who want to do business in the Middle East in the post-oil era.

She said: "The Arabs know that they have to build up their own industries for when the oil runs out. No-one wants to go back to wandering through the desert on a camel."

At the outset she had difficulties not only with the Arabs, but also among West German company executives who did not take her seriously.

Dieter F. Hertel

(Die Welt, Bonn, 18 June 1986)

Ilse Boësen . . . 14 days became three years. (Photo: Archives)

DIE WELT

■ FINANCE

Dresdner Bank cashes in in America

WELT am SONNTAG

The United States has become the most important foreign market for the Frankfurt-based Dresdner Bank.

Lendings there have been averaging $2.7 billion a year. It manages customer deposits worth $2.5 billion and has a balance sheet of DM5 billion in commercial transactions.

The USA accounts for roughly a quarter of the bank's lendings abroad — more than lendings in all Western European industrialised countries put together.

The bank's conquest of the New World began in 1965 when it opened an agency in New York — the first German bank to take such a step in the American financial metropolis.

New York has remained the centre of Dresdner's operations: it upgraded the agency to a branch office in 1972 and since then has set up branches in Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami and an agency in Houston. A branch has also been set up in Canada.

Investment banking has been handled since 1972 by the A.B.D. Securities Corporation, in which the Bayerische *Hypotheken- und Wechsel-Bank has a 25 per cent holding.*

The range of services provided by the Dresdner Bank in America is almost as comprehensive as that of an all-purpose bank in the Federal Republic.

The 1978 International Banking Act allows foreign (as opposed to American) banking institutes to conduct commercial and investment banking transactions simultaneously, providing both lines of business began before 1978.

Kurt Morgen, the man in charge of North American activities, emphasises that Dresdner's main target group are German companies.

The second target group is major US companies with international ambitions.

The Dresdner Bank's low-margin lending business in the USA is just a means of moving in to other banking activites with more lucrative interest margins, commissions and fees.

The Dresdner Bank was called in, for example, when the Hamburg-based Otto mail order group took over the Chicago-based Spiegel mail order company in 1982.

This is the kind of deal the Dresdner Bank's office in downtown Manhattan, just round the corner from Wall Street, would like to see in future.

During the last five years German firms invested DM20bn in the USA, which is more than during the preceding three decades.

Since the beginning of the sixties American firms have invested roughly DM24bn in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Exports to America between 1980 and 1985 increased by an average of 21 *per cent, i.e. three times faster than during the 1970s.*

The United States has now become the Federal Republic's third most important trading partner behind France and the Netherlands.

Merchandise trade with the Federal Republic is also becoming more and more important for the USA.

In 1985 it accounted for about six per cent of all US imports and four per cent of exports.

The securities business is also doing very well.

In 1985 German investors acquired fixed-interest securities with a net value of DM5.3bn.

US dividend-bearing securities accounted for DM2.1bn.

The incredible size of the American market is reflected in the fact that, as Röller pointed out, there are five times more companies in the USA than in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Their stock exchange turnover, however, is thirteen times higher.

One of the market niches into which *the Dresdner Bank has moved during* recent years is international portfolio management for institutional investors, above all, North American pension funds.

The ABD International Management Corporation (ABDI) now manages total assets worth $1.6bn.

Although the corporation has managed to assert itself on the market it is subject to tough competition.

In the USA there are approximately 120 similar firms trying to get a slice of this market segment.

The ABDI, however, ranks in seventh position among these firms and is the second largest non-American company in this field.

As ABDI's president, Ullrich Moser explained, "business is becoming more and more hectic all the time".

Heide Neukirchen

(Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg, 22 June 1986)

Plan to include foreigners in loan underwriters' club

The Deutsche Bundesbank plans to allow 16 more foreign banks to join the federal loan syndicate.

The syndicate, which was set up in 1952 and is headed by the Bundesbank, underwrites federal loan issues.

The latest proposal by the West German central bank would give foreign banks a 20 per cent underwriting share, a fact which does not go down well with existing syndicate members.

They would prefer a share of 15, or better still 10 per cent.

The head of the trade-union-owned Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft (BfG), Thomas Wegschneider, criticised the participation of more foreign banks.

Cooperative banks and savings banks are also unhappy about the planned move, since these banks have been urging the Bundesbank for some time now to grant them a higher share.

Ten of the existing 73 syndicate members are already under foreign ownership due to shareholding acquisitions.

The big banks account for 36 per cent, the savings banks for 23 per cent and the cooperative institutes for 12 per cent of the current syndicate amount.

The Bundesbank has declared that it is willing to consider a change in the share system and syndicate structure at a later date.

In reference to the foreign banks, F. Wilhelm Christians, board spokesman of the Deutsche Bank, also stressed that banks wishing to join the federal loan syndicate must show the "desired and *necessary sense of responsiblity*".

The tasks facing the syndicate are of a long-term nature and must be approached extremely carefully.

If all goes according to plan, the Bundesbank hopes that a federal loan of between DM3bn and DM4bn will be issued with the participation of the new foreign banks in July.

The Bundesbank took its decision following talks between German and foreign credit institutes.

It is hoped that the new move will open up the capital market and increase the appeal of the Federal Republic as a centre of finance.

The main prerequisite for the 16 selected foreign banks is that they make a firm commitment to take on their share and effect a permanent placement.

If parts of the loan are returned to the central bank within a year after they have been issued the Bundesbank has to pay back most of the selling commission.

The new members of the extended federal loan syndicate are two Swiss banks, four US banks, six Japanese banks and one bank respectively from Liechtenstein, Sweden, the Netherlands and Canada.

In order to ensure that German banks are not discriminated against in this field the previous issue amount of the Federal Government, the Federal Railways and the Federal Post Office will be raised accordingly.

However, this cannot hide the fact that this will do little to calm down the critics.

The Bundesbank justifies the redistribution of the sydicate shares by claiming that the liberalisation of money and capital market transactions is not only important for the maintenance of freedom in goods and services transactions, but is also a means of warding off the threat of international protectionism.

In the eyes of the Bundesbank the new measure reflects growing internationalisation and trends on the German capital market.

The Bundesbank is convinced that the extension of the syndicate also reflects the trend that more and more foreigners are buying German bonds.

The foreign banks still have to make their final decision on whether to join the syndicate or not.

However, the Bundesbank expects all 16 banks to agree.

If they don't join the door to the syndicate will remain closed for some time to come.

The placement of federal loan issues has always been a lucrative business.

What is more, the foreign banks themselves have been demanding more participation in the syndicate by pointing towards the fact that many of the Federal Government, Railways and Post Office loans have been going abroad.

Bundesbank statistics show that the federal loan syndicate has issued 264 Federal Government, Railways and Post Office loans worth DM188bn since 1952.

At the beginning of June this year 106 loans worth DM141bn were still in circulation.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 June 1986)

■ MOTORING

Grand piano soaks up sun on the road to the summit

Seventy-odd solar-powered cars are trail-blazing round Switzerland from Freiburg in the Black Forest in the Tour de Sol world championships. The Sun-run battery-powered cars, some distinctly odd, others more everyday in appearance and design, provide welcome publicity for solar energy and will hopefully promote a market for these automotive outsiders.

Classical music can be heard at the controls of a snow-white concert grand piano as it winds its way up the Schliengen road in the Black Forest, a series of hairpin bends and an ascent of 136 metres (446ft).

From there the Tour de Sol heads downhill via Welmlingen, Efringen and Weil am Rhein to the Swiss border.

The grand piano aims to make it to *Basle* by the end of the day's touring. But the *hill* must first be climbed. There is a haze in the air over the sun-baked road.

South Baden, wine-growing country "spoilt by the Sun," to quote the advertising slogan, is sweltering in a heat wave.

It is the hottest day this year in Freiburg. Ideal weather for solar-powered vehicles.

The grand piano is no mirage. It is the most imaginative of the 70-odd cars that set out from Freiburg this morning on the first leg of the inaugural world championships.

It boasts an anglepoised suntop consisting of solar panels. The music is played by a cassette recorder. The man at the keyboard is not a pianist; it is Kurt Dario from Biel, near Berne, Switzerland.

The musical playmobile, owned by the Future Bike Club, goes by the name of Fortissimo, but adagio would be a more accurate description of its leisurely pace.

The Tour de Sol brochure says the championships can be sure to involve nothing hectic and no aggression, simply enjoyable motoring and peace and quiet.

The top speed of vehicles entered is 40kph (25mph).

The mountain test uphill from the wine-growing village of Schliengen is the first serious test of vehicles entered for the championships.

Dario's grand piano makes the ascent at a snail's pace with the help of a little pedal power.

His is a Category II vehicle and has pedals as well as electric traction. Others, powered by solar energy only and streamlinedly aerodynamic in appearance, are less successful.

They fail to scale the gradient unaided. The output of their solar generators isn't even enough to run an electric fan heater. So drivers have to get out and push.

Getting there is the main thing.

(Photo: dpa)

The first leg of the tour is 63km, or just short of 40 miles. A further 320km, or 200 miles, lie ahead.

The tour will take them via Biel, Berne, Interlaken, Lucerne and Suhr. Their toughest obstacle will be the 1,008-metre (3,307ft) Brüning Pass.

Speed records are neither expected nor required. "Getting there is all that counts," says Kurt Dario.

Speed and hill-climbing are less important than the publicity the event gains. "The tour," says PRO Urs Peter Naef, "is intended to lend further impetus to solar vehicle construction."

Switzerland has so far been seen as the mother country of solar cars. The sponsors and organisers are Swiss as are well over two thirds of the competitors.

Twelve teams from the Federal Republic of Germany have entered, plus four from France, two from the United States and even one from Australia.

The Australian Supernova, a four-man tandem with a solar-cell roof and an electric motor is the handiwork of Queensland University's solar energy research centre.

In 1984 the Supernova won a long-distance race over 1,850km (1,156 miles). This time the aim is to prove it can hold its own under everyday conditions on Swiss mountain roads.

About 35, or nearly half, the vehicles entered are series models with a commercial background.

They include the CSK City Car, a streamlined bubble car from Aachen, Peter Bucher's Harmonie from Pfäffikon, Switzerland, and Walter Forster's O Solar Mio, a three-wheeler with a professional look it owes to Italian design.

Another "pro" is Rolf Disch from Freiburg, whose droplet-shaped vehicle made mainly of cycle parts has been licensed and fully authorised to use German roads as a road tax-exempted cycle rickshaw with an auxiliary engine.

A run of 50 Disch solarmobiles is ready for production in the inventor's workshop. They are 3,20 metres long and ideal as city runabouts, he says.

"I am going to scrap my car," Disch says. He plans to go solar-only.

Berlin eco-freak Karl-Heinz Schuhmann already has, yet he was the unhappiest man under the sun in Karlsruhe, where his solar vehicle was found to have been demolished en route.

It came a cropper on its trailer, which turned turtle at 140kph (88mph), wrecking the cab of what once was a golf buggy, smashing the DM10,000 solar-panelled roof and upturning the batteries.

An acid leak from the batteries destroyed his electronic controls too. Bearded, 50-year-old Schuhmann proudly says he was the first in a century of motoring to scale the Fern and Reschen passes in an electric car.

This year the tour was over for him before it even began. He was most upset.

He and his son were among the handful of solar motorists who watched the field set out from Freiburg in the bright sunlight. The six-day tour got off to a brilliant start, with the Sun shining brightly in a cloudless sky.

It feels good, as the tour brochure puts it, to motor without imposing the slightest strain on the environment yet to keep moving, powered only by solar energy.

Is this elation entirely justified? Maybe not. Ecological purists are bound to have feelings of vestigial guilt.

None of the vehicles entered converts sunlight straight into electric power. All are powered by conventional lead batteries, and they are anything but praiseworthy in either manufacture or disposal.

Besides, in bad weather batteries run flat after a distance of between 40 and 100km (25 and 60 miles), and power must then be taken by plugging into an electric socket.

Electric power from the national grid almost inevitably comes from either nuclear power stations, with their radiation risk, or coal-fired power stations, with their static emission.

"The limits to solar power must be clearly acknowledged," says Professor Adolf Goetzberger, head of the Fraunhofer Solar Energy Systems Institute in Freiburg.

Solar cells generate so little power that they cannot hope to keep more than a toy car on the move.

But even fun cars can make money, and Ragnar Mathéy, head of a Vienna engineering firm, feels the market already exists.

"It's an enormous market," he says, watching the start in Freiburg, "if only because there are so many outsiders."

Mathéy, now in his late 50s, sold his first electric car 20 years ago. He now plans to convert his battery-powered three-wheelers to solar energy.

His aim is to sell between 30 and 40 vehicles a year.

Harald Günter

(Die Welt, Bonn, 23 June 1986)

■ THE THEATRE

80-year-old Ohno gives Butoh a touch of the Hijikatas



The show is over and the grand old man of Japanese Butoh dancing, Kazuo Ohno, 80, stands alone on the empty stage at the Berlin Academy of Arts.

He bows, is given a bouquet of flowers and, showing that the end need not be the end, dances on like a butterfly "with a broken wing, ready to fall yet never tiring of fluttering up again and again."

"Something big happened quite quietly," "the dead are starting to walk," "birth, life, death, love and suffering — all were combined in one immense emotion."

These are quotations from a text by Kazuo Ohno on his *The Dead Sea — Viennese Waltz and Ghosts* which was the climax and finale of a festival of Butoh dancing arranged by the Bethanien Arts Centre.

Ohno's work conveyed a striking impression of what Butoh can be: an opportunity of talking about death and celebrating life, for instance.

The much-vaunted man in the street, in this case the streets of Tokyo, defines Butoh, which emerged in the early 1960s as a "stamping dance" from the Japanese underground, as follows:

- *All movements and dances the origins of which are unknown are Butoh.*
- Butoh is what knows neither rules nor taboos.
- When one person says no and the others say yes, then it is Butoh.

These and other definitions are to be found in a book entitled *Die Rebellion des Körpers — Butoh — Ein Tanz aus Japan* published by Alexander Verlag to coincide with the festival.

The book is written by Michael Haerdter and Sumie Kawai and dedicated to Tatsumi Hijikata, the forerunner and pioneer of Butoh, who died early this year.

In 1985, in his last public speech, Hijikata repeatedly referred to childhood. "Observing children and how they handle their bodies has strongly influenced my Butoh," the 57-year-old dancer and choreographer said at the first Tokyo Butoh Festival.

He called to mind the way in which children handle objects generally seen as dead and inanimate:

"I once secretly took a ladle out into the field and left it there because I felt sorry for it in its dark kitchen; I wanted to show it the countryside.

"Feeling limbs and parts of one's body to be independent objects or utensils and, conversely, loving objects like one's own body is a key to the origins of Butoh."

Ohno is a symbol of Butoh and a legendary figure. On stage he is an old man with his face made up white, capable of being both a child and an old man, a man and a woman, a priest and a clown, and a magician talking about despair and joy, hope and fear, longing and sorrow.

Eastern and Western culture are interlinked in the most natural manner, as are past and present, art and life.

The transitions from one to the other are gradual. Nature sound effects merge into music and spiritual songs merge into the Viennese waltzes to which Ohno dances in *The Dead Sea*.

He does so with a light shrug of the shoulder, a smile, a barely perceptible wave of the hand, a movement of the head or simply by walking round in a circle that maps out an entire world on the empty stage.

"His belief in life and in human expression is so strong that he needs nothing more than himself, with eyes in his head, hands on his arms and feet on his legs, to imbue the fleeting moments of his performance with absolute beauty," film-maker Werner Schroeter wrote after first meeting Ohno in 1980 at the drama festival in Nancy, France.

Ohno performed his *Admiring La Argentina* in Nancy. He performed it in Berlin too.

Schroeter made his stage and love film *Generalprobe* (Dress Rehearsal) starring Ohno and another legendary figure, opera star Maria Callas.

"Longingly he listens to the voice of Maria Callas, who had the same gift as he does for making time stand still and freeing you from fear."

Life and survival. At one point, his faced wreathed in pain, Ohno turns to one side for a moment and peers back with a shy smile.

Slowly he falls to the ground, lying on his back like a helpless bug, then getting *back on his feet to go on with a grace* that clearly can have a great deal to do with courage.

Like a high-wire artist he moves across the flat and empty stage, making even his exits at the end of each scene appear adventurous.

Lightly and without sentimentality he leaves the stage, soon to return in a fresh costume, with a flower in his hair, wearing a black wig or a coloured hat, a dress or a suit, short trousers, a bag, and a doll pinned to the long cloak in which he looks like a wanderer between different worlds — and different lives.

"I learnt how to breathe in and out and grew up in a certain place. It is impossible either to teach or to learn this strictly personal experience," Hijikata once said. Butoh dancers need not be expected to come up with ready-made solutions, programmes or answers. "When I dance it isn't a matter of answering earlier questions," says Min Tanaka, 40. "What I want is to make the questions themselves take shape." Tanaka's solo programme *Himmelsform* (Shape of Heaven) opened the Berlin festival. He has always worked in relation to where his dancing takes place, to a specific, once-only event. His starting point in Berlin was the Bethanien Arts Centre, a former hospital in Kreuzberg, a city-centre area near the Berlin Wall. He has danced in rivers and on the roof of a Manhattan skyscraper, in Michel Foucault's Paris apartment and beneath waterfalls, in deserts and in gardens. In Berlin he impressively succeeded yet again in forging a link between his own body and the alien space.

Wearing clothes the colour of soil and a dark woman's wig, he soon leaves *the small and intimate stage*, only to return like a horseman of the Apocalypse among the audience.

He takes off his costumes like a snake shedding its skins and leads the audience into the corridor, where he climbs into closed windows, calling to mind the patients who used to walk along these corridors in their dressing gowns.

As photographers' shutters tirelessly click, Tanaka dances on, down the stairs and into the lobby, eventually going outside, his naked body steaming on the stone steps.

He slowly slips down, gets up again and runs over the grass to a tall tree as dark falls. There he stands quite still, breathing in and out, naked, his back to the tree trunk.



Kazuo Ohno . . . the end needn't be the end. (Photo: Oliver Herrmann)

Totally disrobed, he nods curtly. The show is over. Tanaka takes his leave bowing as he crosses the lawn. Someone goes over to him with an overcoat.

"You reveal yourself with nothing so tellingly as with masks. Nudity is the way to escape," wrote Jean Genet, a European who had much in common with Butoh.

Butoh invariably entails an altercation with masks, masquerades, exteriors and interiors.

"I believe," Ohno says, "that man's life coincides with that of the universe. To me Butoh means donning the costume of the universe.

"It means donning attire for both body and soul: the costume of Butoh."

As though it were perfectly simple he dons his costume, stands in front of the white backdrop and sets out on a journey with his body, dancing again to the old waltzes and turning circles.

He is amazing and often like a child amazed when he has sudddenly danced far away, an old man quite close to the unborn in Kubrick's *Odyssey in Outer Space*.

An older woman, a survivor, dreams of a tree and wants to make a sign of life against death. She collects money and has a chestnut tree planted *in front of a* hospital where Aids vic[illegible]

As he stands on the stage talking about the need to constantly try and flutter up again, Ohno calls to mind Wanda, a Berlin bar-owner, as she stands alongside the tree, dressed in white with bright blue hair, looking for all the world like a bride.

[illegible] moment of utmost exhaustion [illegible] extreme effort sets the body right again: that is the true origin of Butoh. Death and rebirth. The good fortune of staying active despite old age — like an old-timer. The dead are starting to walk."

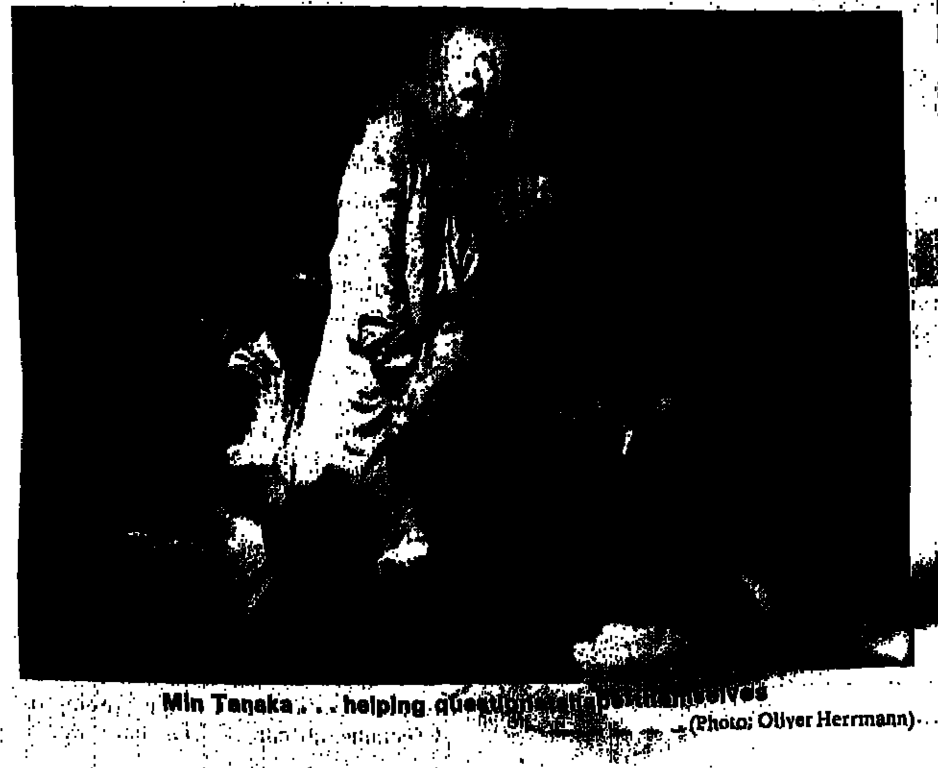
The writer first saw him a few years ago at the Munich drama festival, after rehearsal in a circus tent [illegible] grass, an old [illegible]

The [illegible] make-up, with blue eye[illegible] [illegible] chest, surrounded by children [illegible] whom he eventually danced again.

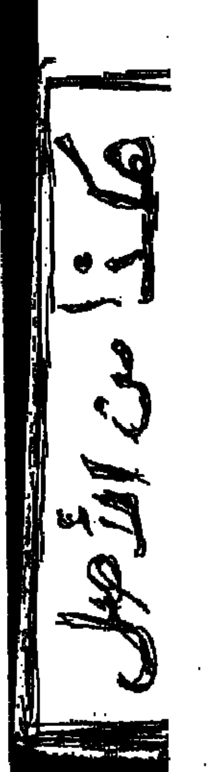
As the poet says: "Yet always it was dance without end."

Raimund Hoghe

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 13 June 1986)



Min Tanaka . . . helping questions [illegible] themselves (Photo: Oliver Herrmann)



■ FILMS

Norwegian cameraman dashes after white mice and stumbles over a winner



Norwegian cameraman Ivar Kalleberg took a week to make his seven-minute film, *A Christmas Fairy-tale*, in which a family of mice play the main parts.

He said: "I let them out and then just dashed after them with the camera."

The result was one of the winners at the Prix Jeunesse in Munich.

It shows the mice enjoying themselves in the kitchen cupboard; taking the living room (decorated for Christmas) by storm; swinging on the branches of the Christmas tree; and making a truce with the grumpy cat.

It was so cleverly edited and narrated *with such wit that it had the 295 adult experts giggling like children.*

But otherwise there was not much amusement at the Prix Jeunesse this *year.*

The international prize is awarded every two years for the best television films for children and young people.

It is supported by the *Land* of Bavaria, the city of Munich, Bavarian Radio and the Second Television Channel.

Festival manager Ernst Emrich said that "the tendency to discuss everything with children continues unabated."

Many of the productions in all categories (children's plays, information, entertainment and cartoon films) dealt with death, war, divorce, living abroad and being handicapped.

These films showed the darker side of life which in reality children would have to face up to anyway and come to terms with.

More than in previous years the television drama format was preferred, partly because of its greater attraction and possibilities for identification, and partly just because film budgets are larger.

This was shown in the cartoon film category, included this year for the first time. The heart-warming Swedish Television film about a small autistic girl and the problems that beset her family won the award.

The British Independent Television (*ITV*) contribution *Look at me* won two prizes, one awarded without regard to category of film and a second, special prize on behalf of Unicef.

Without varnishing over the facts *Look at me* movingly describes the difficulties a deaf and dumb boy has at understanding the world around him and the beginnings of a friendship.

The winner in the category "Children's plays," the Canadian contribution *Griff makes a date*, takes as its central theme being handicapped and first love at school.

The category "Information" was very disappointing. Unkindness, unimaginativeness and just plain propaganda dominated most of the films.

The fascinating BBC idea of a direct satellite link between young people from Britain and Russia turned out like this. The exchanges, stimulated by the presenter, were prejudiced with the British young people having the best of it because of the language and free speech.

The Russians presented a television film about the world and young people, that had little to say and kept to the party line.

The Danish film, "So long as he can count the cows" stood out. It is part of a series that describes to children daily life in the Third World.

This film told the story of two boys who live in the kingdom of Bhutan in the Himalayas. It was given not only the Prix Jeunesse award but also a special prize presented by the German Unesco Commission.

There were altogether 96 contributions from 64 television organisations in 46 countries.

This is almost too many for any discussion in detail, which is a feature of the Prix Jeunesse. There is no business talk about the films. The festival is almost an island of the blessed.

Nevertheless it has been opened to private organisations that can submit children's broadcasts if certain conditions are met.

They must have produced the programme themselves, for instance, and they must have a national significance.

RTL from Luxembourg and Sat 1 that screens children's programmes prepared by a Ravensburg publishing house declined to participate although invited to do so.

The amusing contribution from the American private television channel, *Nickelodeon*, made up of comedy spots and gags, showed the way things are going.

This film was not made by the company. Because it is cheaper, the whole programme is sold as a package in various countries. It did not have much that was creative about it.

What was conspicuous was that a large budget did not automatically mean better quality. Quite the contrary in fact.

As ever the story-line, the message or the ability to amuse was lost in too much décor and orgies of tricks.

There were plenty of examples of this from the pop music show from Djakarta to the 1.5 million mark production for South German Television, *A Christmas fairy-tale* (which tells the story of the girl with the matches) to the gaudily-coloured fantasy story from France *Cigalune*.

It was much easier to concentrate on the relationships in *Look at me*, and the East German cartoon film contribution *Der Zuvielfraser* was so much clearer, wittier and more trenchant.

It dealt with an argument between three mice about eating. In a few minutes volumes were spoken about living together.

Often cultural differences came into play in assessing the value of contributions, particularly those from the Third World.

This year about a quarter of the films shown were from the Third World, a considerable increase over those shown at the previous festival.

This was all the more heartening since the films made in the southern hemisphere were made with little money and had to compete with productions made for mass consumption.

What is long-drawn out and undramatic for the European is fascinating to the African.

So it was hard for these films to compete for naturally their video techniques looked quite simple compared with the technical paraphernalia of the European films.

The contribution from Burundi, convincing and using simple production methods, was quite lovely, and the country only entered the television era two years ago.

The story of the Umuganuro Feastival is told to children by changing from puppets to documentary film. The film is quite poetic with authentic drum background sounds.

This film was given a special prize by the international jury.

There was unanimity about the French contribution. It was trendy, loud and without any underlying meaning or intention.

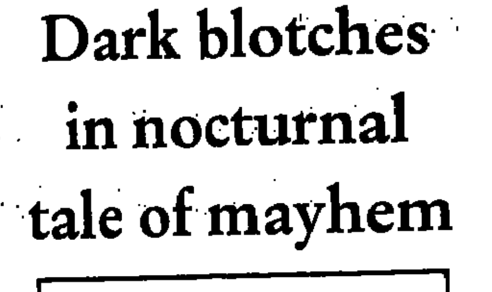
Its nervous excitement seemed meant to appeal to small potential viewers, using little girls dressed provocatively as Marilyn Monroes, downright sex objects.

This was an example of the trend, criticised by one of the experts, the intrusion of the video-clip culture into children's television.

Christiane Grefe

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 22 June 1986)

Dark blotches in nocturnal tale of mayhem



Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Hans-Christoph Blumenberg knows his way around the film world better than most in this country. He has learned from his earlier work in film series that the banality of everyday things is fascinating. They only have to be made magical by mystifying them.

His film *Der Sommer des Samurai* (The summer of the samurai) shows a man in black who spreads anxiety and fear in a city.

He leaves his mark on walls. It remains a mystery for a long time. The police don't know what to do, the authorities are afraid and the press has enough material for any number of sinister stories.

The city is Hamburg. The houses and streets are photographed like a rugged landscape. There are rivers full of mystery and fairy-tale castles.

This mysterious man in black casts a dark shadow over the city. In his close-fitting clothes, his half-mask and his black head-band decorated with Japanese characters in white he gives the impression of a figure from another world.

He is everywhere and nowhere at one and the same time. No-one meets him, no-one sees him. He opens well-protected safes and burns money. He creates chaos among computers — all with the suggestive powers of his eyes.

From the very beginning it is obvious that we spectators are to be seduced into enjoying kids' stuff. The totally impossible is going to be made to appear possible.

In Blumenberg's film the man in black quickly becomes a symbol of thousands of possibilities. He embodies craving and disappointment.

He recalls myths, magical powers and legendary fame, but neverthless he gives the impression of reality.

Everything is possible because everything is comprehensible.

Hans Peter Hallwachs plays this mysterious character very precisely, very coolly, very physically.

He achieves what seemed impossible in German films until now. In all the empty play he reflects the deep longings of those watching the film.

But this story is not the whole of the film. In fact *Der Sommer des Samurai* begins in 1703 in Japan, when 47 warriors seek revenge on a traitor to their lord.

This act obliges them to commit suicide so that they die with honour. The warriors' names come to light again in 1986, sprayed with white paint on the walls of Hamburg houses. A woman journalist (Cornelia Froboess) sets out to unravel the mystery of the characters.

Unfortunately the story of this research fails. There is far too much talk. Too much blasé chatter with a blasé edi-

Continued on page 13

Hamburg copping it from the man in black in *Der Sommer des Samurai*. (Photo: Filmwelt)

■ SPACE

Astronaut tells how gravity played tricks on him

Frankfurter Allgemeine

German astronaut Reinhard Furrer has told about some odd things that happened to him immediately after returning from his Spacelab mission last year.

Addressing a meeting dealing with space research and physical education, he described how he hat been unable to throw a cigarette lighter to a friend between two and three metres away.

The meeting was held in Cologne by the German Sport Academy and the Aerospace Research Establishment (DFVLR).

Furrer said that at the first attempt the lighter had landed a mere 20cm in front of him. His second attempt cleared 30cm (1ft).

It wasn't due to muscular fatigue or atrophy or a blockage of some other kind.

It merely showed the extent to which his senses had adapted to the state of weightlessness. *In space the slightest* push would have been enough to throw the lighter virtually any distance.

Further examples showed how quickly the human nervous system adjusted to weightlessness. *Back on earth he had* noticed an unusual sensation when climbing stairs.

He felt the stairs give way under him, so that he slowly made his way upstairs but the stairs gave way one by one as he did so.

These sensations only occurred im*mediately after he landed. A few days* later they had vanished. But sports teachers were more interested in what he had to say about the decline in muscular tension in outer space.

This phenomenon had gone to such an extent that in the dark he no longer knew where his arms were and had to think where to look to check the time by his wristwatch.

Professor Stegemann of the physiology department at the Sport Academy said a variety of phenomena were of equal interest to both space medicine and physical education as a research discipline.

When his athletes were rushed into top-flight training schedules they felt decidedly ill. Physiological disharmony occurred because not all body systems adjusted at equal speed to the new demands.

A similar, if opposite phenomenon occurred in outer space, where physical demands on the astronaut's body declined dramatically due to zero gravity.

Either way, physiological harmony was thrown out of joint.

Proffessor Klein, head of the DFVLR's aviation medicine institute, said in his lecture that pathological *changes in the organism* due to zero gravity could be countered by physical training.

In the 1970s the Americans had their astronauts on board Skylab go through *a daily 90 minutes of keep fit exercises.*

The Russians had made their cosmonauts go through a two-and-a-half-hour daily routine on long-term space missions.

Exercises included running on a belt, using an expander, pedalling on a cycle trainer and wearing special suits with rubber bands running up and down the body.

These suits, known as penguin suits, are designed to contract the body from head to toe, simulating to a strictly limited extent the power of gravity.

The latest Russian invention is partial vacuum pants that are said to counteract the rush of fluid to the upper part of the body in zero gravity.

Yet despite research endeavours scientists had failed, Professor Klein *said, to devise a means of counteracting* the loss of bone calcium. Not even intensive space training seemed to have the slightest retarding effect.

Professor Klein said the Skylab astro*nauts had been found after three* months in space to have lost about 25 grams, or two per cent, of their bone calcium. This was a serious loss.

A manned flight to Mars, as planned by the *Americans for the beginning of* next century, might have to be cancelled for this reason.

Dangers

Professor Stegemann added that a long-term loss of bone calcium was not necessarily reversible.

When athletes suffered knee injuries as a result of which one leg was subjected to less strain than the other, X-ray exposures revealed a weakening of the bone substance.

When the leg was put to normal use again this change was reversed to some extent, but it was far from sure whether a bone would ever regain its full strength, especially after being out of action for some time.

Professor Fuchs, former surgeon-general of the Luftwaffe, agreed. "What point is there in flying to Mars," he asked, "if astronauts risk breaking legs that have grown brittle on landing?"

Dr Lehmann of Freiburg University Hospital dealt with long-term tests of physical reactions to physical and mental strain. For 12 to 14 years tests had been carried out on racing drivers, marathon runners, forestry workers and golf players.

Noradrenalin was found to deserve being dubbed a "muscle hormone" because the amount the body produced increased in relation to physical effort and exertion.

Mental strain tended in contrast to boost output of adrenalin, peaking among ski jumpers and grand prix racing drivers.

Experiments with racing drivers on the Salzburgring had shown that mental strain declined in relation to the degree of physical fitness. Drivers in *peak physical* condition had both lower *cardiac* ratings and a lower output of adrenalin.

Dr Goeters of the DFV*LR outlined* a number of criteria by which would-be astronauts were judged. They included qualities such as vitality, extroversion or introversion, personal warmth or hostility, striving for dominance or emotional stability.

Seven out of 10 would-be astronauts he and his staff of 20 tested were ruled *out on psychological grounds.* They lacked the balanced personality psychologists felt was ideal for an astronaut.

A further 10 to 15 per cent failed *medical tests, usually leaving only* 15 to 20 per cent of the original applicants.

Herr Sonnenschein of the Sport Academy outlined what could be done to counteract stress. The first move was *to realistically simulate a stress* situation the trainee was likely to undergo.

Then he must be taught to take a more positive view of his situation. He must not exaggerate the possible risks and dangers.

A third category consisted of conditioning routines, such as autogenic training.

There was some slight final consolation for the *unsporting, unfit* members of the audience. Professor Stegemann provided it.

In orientation tests consisting of lying in warm water for about eight hours *then getting back on their feet*, arts faculty guinea pigs had proved much better than highly trained cracks from the Sport Academy.

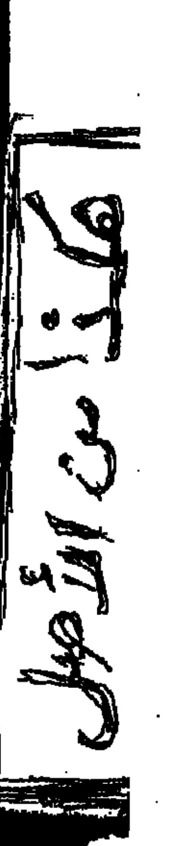
The super-athletes had slumped to the ground, not sure *where they were*. The arts buffs had the situation under control. Even after hours in the water they still knew where up and down were and how to keep themselves upright.

Anatol Johansen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschand, 21 June 1986)



That down-to-earth feeling . . . astronauts Reinhard Furrer (right) and Ernst Messerschmidt with a model of Spacelab and shuttle. (Photo: Werek)



■ EDUCATION

Foreign-children plan survives neo-Nazi blows

General-Anzeiger

Right-wing extremists set out to get a Gelsenkirchen headmaster last year *after a Turk at his school took the Abitur* examination. It was the first time in the 80-year history of Ricarda Huch Gymnasium that a Turk had been an *Abitur* candidate. And the neo-Nazis didn't like it a bit.

They began by smearing "Turks Out" signs on walls. Then they hotted up their vendetta by threatening to kill headmaster Wilhelm Funke. Finally they set his car on fire.

Since 1978, the school has been ac*cepting* a lot more Turkish pupils as *part of a Land* government scheme to improve the education of disadvantaged migrant groups by distributing them *more* widely within schools.

The sort of xenophobia unleashed by *the* pioneering examination candidate is the exception in North Rhine-Westphalia. But it was enough to get right up the noses of the neo-Nazis.

The school takes pupils from *Grundschule (primary school) level up* to university entrance. It has 820 pupils. Of those, 156 (19.1 per cent) are the children of foreigners. In each class there are now between six and eight foreign children.

In the entire *Land* of North Rhine-Westphalia there are 130,408 Turkish children receiving a general education. Only 4,983 are at a Gymnasium (academically oriented) and 6,818 in a Realschule (intermediate school).

The *Land* parliamentary committee for schools and further education began the pilot project after gathering information about the performance of Turkish children at school.

Among their findings were that 30 per cent of those attending a *Gymnasium* had to be sent back to Hauptschule (school to prepare pupils for vocational schools) after the initial two-year probation period.

It was found that the Grundschule (primary school) was unable to prepare Turkish pupils for the Gymnasium anywhere near as efficiently as German pupils.

And at the *Gymnasium, even clever Turkish pupils* found it difficult to overcome language and other scholastic problems within the probation period.

It was found that Turkish children worked more slowly. There were contributory problems: many had to accompany their non-German speaking parents for various appointments such as visiting the doctor's or going to government departments when they should have been at school.

An SPD member of the *Land* assembly, Jürgen Schaufuss, asked the education ministry in a parliamentary question why it was that although Turkish had been laid down as a first or second foreign language, no syllabus was yet available in the schools.

In the Ricarda Huch Gymnasium and in some other schools, Turkish can be taken as a supplementary subject in the two probation years at the Gymnasium (from the ages of about 11 to 13). From Class 7 (age about 13-14) *it can be taken* as a second foreign language.

The root of the problem seems to be that many Turkish pupils have a good grasp of neither Turkish nor German: one Gelsenkirchen headmistress, Evamaria Sonntag, said they tended to use German even among themselves. Their Turkish was limited to the needs of the home.

The *Land* assembly decided in 1984 that Turkish pupils would be allowed to *take their mother language from their* first year in the Gymnasium so they would be spared having to learn a third foreign language.

Now the schools and further education committee want it to be *allowed* as a third or fourth subject for the *Abitur*. Pressure for such a decision has been coming from schools with a high number of Turks.

Educationists reckon that this upgrading of Turkish would go a long way towards helping the children realise their potential. At the moment, they have great difficulty developing their abilities through the medium of German.

Josef Frank

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 11 June 1986)

Panel tries to find the youth who is trying to find himself

Educationalists and parents want to prepare children for the future. They believe they know best about coming to terms with the demands of life.

But sometimes all the best-intentioned efforts seem inadequate. For many young people, the future seems a pretty doubtful quantity — especially for those with little chance of getting a job.

Many young people feel they have to take the matter into their own hands. Last week, Dr Thomas Ziehe, of the University of Hanover, told a meeting about his findings on the subject of youth self-discovery.

Many youngsters, he said, "look inwardly for intimacy and contact to escape what they see as a cold and bleak reality."

This form of escapism "usually starts promisingly enough, but often leads to disappointment."

Other young people look for certainty and a binding obligatory ethical code.

A third group is interested in spiritualising and bewitching itself. The fourth group is on the look out for an intense awareness of life. Everything, including clothes, said Ziehe, "is loaded with *meaning. These young teenagers* want excitement and refinement to avoid dreariness."

Parents and educationalists, said Ziehe "Shouldn't dismiss this as some kind of fashion fad."

They should, he added, "offer teenagers new rituals and experiences, which cushion them from the fears of a threatening future. They, also, should be able to forget about the future once in a while."

Altogether five experts presented their findings on family therapy.

It was repeatedly stressed that families which have cordoned themselves off from others, can create conditions unfavourable to the development of young people.

In order to achieve a *pretence of harmony*, families like this will try anything to play down conflicts.

Dr Helga Färber from a day clinic in Cologne said,"Mothers who try to keep *up close contact with their children can* make them depressed."

As a result, she added, "they do not learn how to say no, to demand things or how to keep them if they do manage *to get them.*

"If they want to push their own interests through, they then turn to the use of feelings of shame and guilt. The possible consequences can be a weak ego and self-hate," she said.

Depressed teenagers tend to show strong dependence on their parents and *their opinions.*

In such cases living apart such as in a boarding school is often to be recommended.

Professor Joachim Hehl of Düssel*dorf University said at the lecture that* other forms of depression, such as anorexia nervosa in young girls, crop up regularly in families with a rigid fear ridden "Harmony."

Hehl explained that the internal boundaries of such families have become displaced.

Usually the father and mother form a coalition and the children a second one.

In families with anorexia nervosa the mother and children have formed a coalition against the father.

It has to be said that in many cases, often unacknowledged, there exists a very close erotic relationship on the part of the girl to the father

Between the ages of eight and ten the *girl avoids physical proximity* and develops hate and disgust towards the father. From then on the relationship between them becomes discordant.

The anorexiac child, said Hehl, "is *undermined by the division* between the father and mother. Both parents use the child as middle-man to strengthen the contact with each other."

The parents themselves, he added "often complained that taking care of the children left them with no time for each other. As a result sexuality was never important with the result that feelings could not be expressed easily."

Hehl went on to stress that it was the task of therapists to loosen the boundries surrounding such families and to neutralise *parents' claims* on anorexiac children.

It was also of utmost importance that the child receive medical attention.

Ulrike Walden

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 21 May 1986)

Teachers work on the factory floor to help their pupils

About 30 schoolteachers from Cologne have taken a week of their summer holiday to work in other jobs. They have put in overtime at Ford, sold radio equipment at Karstadt, the department store chain, and carried out chemical experiments in the Bayer training laboratory.

The 30 all teach at Hauptschule (vocation-based secondary schools). Their week's work is aimed at helping them help pupils in the 9th and 10th classes (aged roughly from 15 to 17) who are required to do three weeks practical training with various companies.

School inspector Marianne Trompeter told the education department that the aim of the exercise, to improve the relationship between school and commerce, was much nearer because of the efforts of the teachers.

The fact that teachers were prepared to go out and spend time getting sore feet on the factory floor also won them esteem from pupils.

Some of course had to endure a little mockery: one teacher worked in the radio and television department at Karstadt. A group of youths grinned at him and said: "He's only here to look at the others work."

Such taunts didn't bother him. On the Saturday, he sold twice as much as any of his professional colleagues.

The teachers also wanted to find out what chances pupils had of getting apprenticeships or training places. Electronics manufacturer Nixdorf were only interested in Hauptschule pupils with *specialist certificates, for example.* Karstadt were more interested in training people as sales staff.

Many questions were raised back at school about writing job applications, *handling interviews and preparing* for aptitude tests.

Employers did not expect applicants to have any knowledge of their future jobs; in-house training would handle that. But they were all insistent on one thing: that applicants were proficient in the three Rs, reading, writing and arithmetic.

Claudia Meyer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 12 June 1986)

Continued from page 11

tor, and too much clever dialogue with a clever bar keeper.

Then, unfortunately, too many problems emerge. Suddenly there is a politi*cal scandal, an interweaving of environ*mental and political interests.

In the true tradition of poor, new West German films it is impossible to tell a story clearly and credibly. The story has to be linked to "relevant" matters of the moment.

Blumenberg is not good at telling about people, their longings and worries, about the times in which we live.

His film survives on its lively, mad story line that casts a spell, when it deals with pure entertainment.

He *is* good at filming the trivial. He is not afraid of using obscure forms nor surface brilliance. What is important for him is to excite feelings, attitudes and conviction, without using too many words.

His adventure film in a major city will not be unravelled by discussion, but through action, combat and unambiguous behaviour.

In this sense the film can be praised as a contribution to the almost forgotten sensational cinema.

Der Sommer des Samurai must be seen as a film paying homage to Louis Feuillade's earlier city adventure film. Obviously Feuillade's *Fantomas* and *Judex* were the models for Blumenberg's film.

The woman journalist is based on Filippe Guerande in *Les Vampires*. As a journalist he is more successful in his investigations than the police.

Just like Feuillade Blumenberg films his characters against considerable décor, with vivid costumes and props you never forget.

Norbert Grob

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 22 June 1986)

■ SOCIETY

Berlin's seamy side through an urchin's eyes

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Annette Berr regards herself as an up-and-coming talent in Berlin's literary circles.

Her book *Nachts sind alle Katzen breit* (All Cats Are Drunk At Night), however, is not really literature at all.

And yet it is more than a diary-style documentary.

In her book she describes the pure and unadulterated mundaneness of everyday life in a Berlin red-light district.

Annette Berr sees the world through the eyes of the kids who play on the streets, children who, like Annette, live from hand to mouth.

She herself lives in an area where time seems to stand still, quilts and sleeping bags dangling out of open windows.

This is no place for the in-people of the boutique scene or the hectic pace of department store monotony.

When I visited her in the Adalbertstrasse *I had to squeeze past a scruffy*-looking Ford Transit to get into the backyard.

A curtain was drawn back in a ground floor flat and a colourful character started waving: Annette.

The stories in her book are about as extreme as the way she looks, her hair brushed up over three headbands.

Apart from the descriptions of Berlin's seedy area there are excessive accounts of Lesbian love and eroticism.

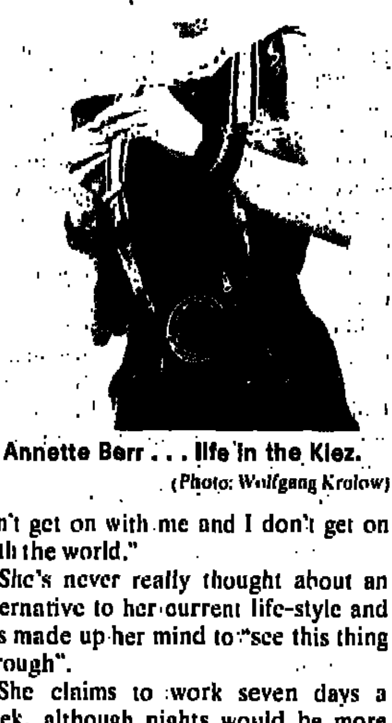
Twenty-three year-old Annette gets her inspiration from the observations *she makes* near the Kottbuss Gate.

She just listens and looks, admitting that she "steals bits and pieces everywhere."

She calls the *Kiez* (red-light area), which people from the Charlottenburg district would feel is more than depressing, a "district full of feeling".

Just like the girl Caro in one of her stories Annette is hooked on the district:

"This city made her feel ill, hollowed her out, gave her nothing. But somehow she was stuck, couldn't move, loved these dirty streets, the houses, the people, even the filthy air, simply because it all belonged together, even the bastard pigeons." Annette *told me that she has* always liked writing and painting. She never wanted to practice the teaching job she learnt after leaving school at the age of fifteen. "I take every opportunity to *present myself*", she says full of self-confidence, and adds defiantly: "Because the world doesn't get on with me and I don't get on with the world."



Annette Berr . . . life in the Kiez. *(Photo: Wolfgang Krolow)*

She's never really thought about an alternative to her current life-style and has made up her mind to "see this thing through".

She claims to work seven days a week, although nights would be more precise.

She writes her stories at night, whereas her days are filled up with "appointments".

I *couldn't help but smile, since this* very business-like expression just do-

Continued on page 15

Sex appeal cloaked in a layer of rippling muscle

There isn't the slightest suggestion of a spare fold or ripple of flesh under *the skin-tight tan-coloured shirt*. The shoulders are brown and broad and bulging with muscle. A lot of men would be envious.

Gabi Sievers, 23 years old, is the world champion woman body builder. She has won the title three times, in *1983, 84* and *85*. Now she is sitting in the commercial gymnasium she runs with the help of boyfriend Volker Roese and *talking about muscles and championships* and femininity.

Most of the time, she says, she is not at all the muscle-flexing body builder. But, four months before each competitions, she goes on a "brutal diet" so the fatty tissue disappears and each muscle *fibre stands out like manila rope*.

It is a tough regimen. Tougher even than it was for her three years ago. So this year she is having a rest from competition.

She doesn't find her championship body form all that beautiful, she says, but that is what the judges demand.

But at the same time, a woman must remain a woman: even in competition, *her recipe for success is always to radiate* femininity and sex appeal.

Gabi was once employed as a legal assistant by the Premier of Schleswig-Holstein, Uwe Barschel. She first went *to a gymnasium* five years ago, when Volker was training intensively. She says: "It became more and more fun. I began by training once a week. Then three times and later almost every day."

Every muscle she developed increased her self confidence. Lo and behold, from the little grey mouse there emerged a personality with confidence, someone able to judge her own strengths and weaknesses.

The torture of the training and the diet are all compensated by the world *championship*: "*It's just fun*. The atmosphere, the build up, the people, the posing, the tingling feeling of competition."



The form that won titles and made a million-mark business . . . Gabi Sievers. (Photo: [illegible])

When the training and the diet gets too much for her, Volker boosts her flagging spirits and she keeps going.

Does she fear that, after *having a rest* this year, she will find *it difficult getting* back into it again?

No. In any case, she can not think of life without body *building*. Even if she has children. "You simply feel better when you do something for your body."

Three years ago she opened her own gymnasium in Kiel. It now has 1,100 members. In April she opened another in Hamburg which already has 400 members. Monthly subscriptions are between 88 and 118 marks for unlimited use.

Then there are lucrative *shows and* seminars at weekends, so the business is turning over more than a million marks a year.

She decided to open her own gymnasium after hard experience: "In mixed studios, women can't work out with some pieces of equipment *in front of* men. Or they have to do it in secret. With thigh exercises, for example, men's eyeballs fall right out."

(Die Welt, Bonn, 20 June 1986)

They can't pull the wool over this sheep breeder's eyes

The German sheep-breeding elite was more than taken aback several years ago when a young lady turned up at an auction to sell off her sheep.

Since then, Adelheid von Spiegel (29), the only female sheep breeder in the Federal Republic of Germany, has more than gained the respect of her male colleagues.

Adelheid, who comes from Westphalia, quite rightly feels proud of her breeding results during the past few years.

They have been some of the best in the country, a country which in its turn is one of the world's best in this field.

The fair-haired master sheep breeder *can look back on an 80-year-old* sheep-breeding tradition in her own *family and on ten years of personal ex*perience.

Everyday life at the Helmern Farm in Willebadessen has very little to do with the romantic ideas of a tranquil shepherd's life.

Adelheid von Spiegel has to keep an eye on *900 ewes, 25 rams and 700* lambs.

"In addition, there's daily feeding with the bottle for quite a few lambs and careful supervision," she adds, describing her unusual working life.

A professional approach is the best guarantee for excellent breeding results.

Those animals which do not stay on the farm estate are sold at auctions or sold for lamb meat.

Even after May, when the sheep come out of the sheepfold to graze on the meadows, there's still plenty of work to do on the farm.

Via intensive farming Adelheid von Spiegel makes sure that two-thirds of the winter animal feed is provided by her own stocks.

She's always on the move, visiting *auctions, buying new animals or selling* her own.

"DM8,000 for an excellent ram is no exception," she explains.

Blackfaced sheep from Westphalia are very much in demand both in Germany and overseas.

What is the secret of her success?

"Meticulous compliance with the breeding regulations, loving and profes*sional supervision, and a fair share of* self-confidence ensure recognition in an otherwise purely man's world," she replies.

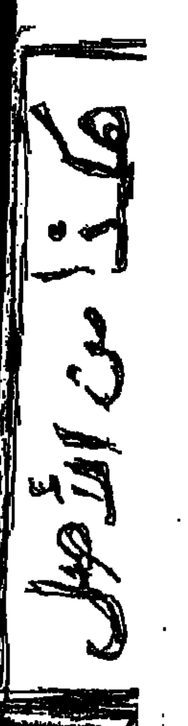
It's hardly surprising that Adelheid von Spiegel has no time for the peaceful life of a shepherd out on the fields.

Johan Crasemann

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 7 June 1986)



Three bags full . . . Adelheid von Spiegel organises breakfast. (Photo: Teutopress)



■ ESCAPADES

Wonderful men in (almost) flying machines

In 1811, the Tailor of Ulm tried to fly the 40 metres across the Danube from Württemberg to Bavaria. He didn't make it and had to be fished out of the water.

To commemorate the 175th anniversary of the event, the city of Ulm held a competition and offered 50,000 marks for anyone who could succeed where the Tailor, Albrecht Ludwig Berblinger, failed.

So a 40ft, sloping wooden launching pad was erected on the riverbank. There were initially 3,000 inquiries. This resulted in 83 applications, of whom 67 were invited to take part. Some changed their minds and just over 40 turned up.

But at the start, some took one look at the launching pad, the windy weather *and the* cold waters of the Danube — *and pulled out*. Only 29 took to the air.

Entrants were required to design their own craft — more or less along the *lines* followed by Berblinger. The modern hang glider was banned.

The winner was the only entrant to succeed — Holger Rochelt, 19, managed to cross the 40 metres of river *and actually was airborne for 70 metres.*

Although he landed on bales of straw laid out for the occasion, he dislocated an arm.

He was the only casualty. The rest suffered nothing worse than a dunking.

The wooden launching pad looked *like a ski jump, except it was only* 12.30 metres (40ft 4in) above the waters of the Danube.

The surface of the water, temperature 12° C (54° F), was whipped by gusts of easterly wind. Treetops were being blown to and fro. But apart from the *wind, the weather was fine.*

"The risk," the loudspeaker commentator told the crowd of 40,000 on both sides of the river, "is still big."

The crowd was becoming impatient. They had been waiting for hours for the wind to drop.

Berblinger the Tailor wore wings when he plunged straight into the Danube at this spot. This time, the wind dropped just before 6 p.m. and Oliver Wolfinger, a 22-year-old student from Birkenfeld, near Pforzheim, became the first to make the attempt.

The launching pad sloped at 35 degrees so competitors could get lift.

He took a few steps, his 20kg of red *and white wing firmly fixed to his shoul*ders, and tried [illegible]. But he sank like a stone into the river.

Wolfinger's failure was unlikely to win an award but it was at least historically accurate. Berblinger's flight 175 years ago also flopped.

That failure was watched by a crowd including the King of Württemberg and he was the laughing stock of his contemporaries and compatriots, immortalised in song.

It wasn't to be. Eighty years later Otto Lilienthal, not the Tailor of Ulm, defied gravity and pioneered aviation as we know it.

Berblinger was certainly a most imaginative man. He became a master-tailor at the uncommonly early age of 21. But his heart wasn't in his trade.

His father was a cobbler but he grew up in an orphanage and learnt the tailor's trade more by coincidence than by design. He had other interests, such as designing a remarkably well-jointed artificial leg and perfecting his flying machine.

On 24 April 1811 he came out, as it were, proclaiming in the columns of the *Schwäbischer Merkur* that:

"The undersigned has succeeded in inventing a flying machine with which he will shortly be making his first attempt to fly here in Ulm, having no doubt whatever as to the success of his venture, given the opinions of several experts."

His hopes had been fuelled by secret test runs from a sloping meadow as a result of which he felt confident his wings would work.

His first (and last) public attempt was watched by no less a personage than *King Friedrich I of Württemberg*. Berblinger planned to span the 40-metre Danube from a seven-metre wooden platform on the ramparts of the Adlerbastei.

In theory everything was right. In practice it went badly wrong.

Contemporary accounts describe him as having been as white as chalk as he stood in position, frantically waving his winged arms.

The wind came from the wrong direction and the inevitable happened. The plucky tailor plunged straight into the river and was given a purse of 20 Louis d'Or by the King for his trouble.

But nothing succeeds like failure. He was a laughing stock for the rest of his *life, dying of consumption on 28 January* 1829.

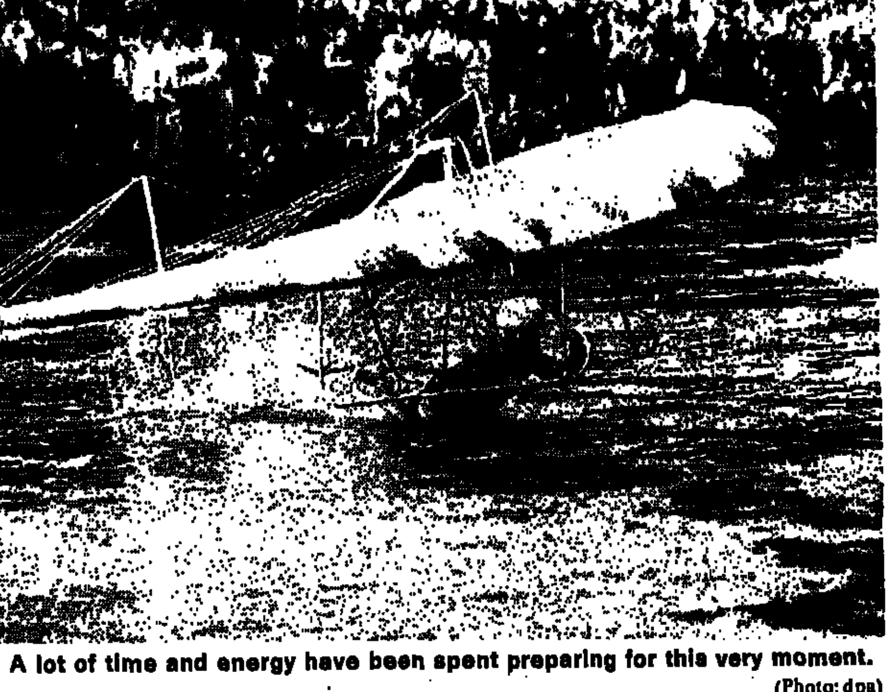
He was 58 and an alcoholic. He was buried in an unknown grave.

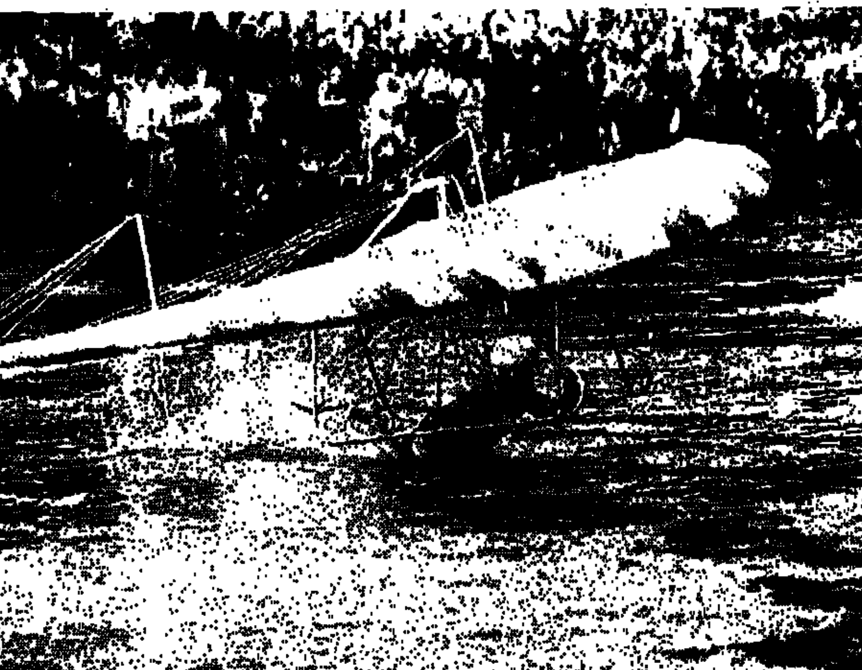
A laughing stock in his lifetime, he has long been rehabilitated. Ulm's Oberbürgermeister Ernst Ludwig says *he was a genius.*

The Tailor of Ulm is now seen as having been a progressive alternative who was farsighted enough to think well ahead of his time and undeservingly driven into hardship as a result.

That, says Mayor Ludwig, must never happen again. Berblinger even enjoys posthumous acclaim from someone better qualified than Mayor Ludwig on matters of unaided flight.

"He was able to fly alright," says Manfred Herter, 51, head of the municipal cemetery department, a keen glider-pilot and latter-day Berblinger fan.





A lot of time and energy have been spent preparing for this very moment. (Photo: dpa)



In the early 1970s he flew up to 23.6 metres (77ft 5in) using a replica of the tailor's original flying machine. He too twice plunged into the Danube from the Adlerbastei.

The tailor's tale has preoccupied his *native Ulm for generations and this* year, 175 years after his first attempt, a competition was organised to succeed where he failed.

DM50,000 in prize money was to be awarded to the most successful aviator, subject to strict conditions.

The flying machine had to be designed by the entrant himself and along lines generally in keeping with Berblinger's. So modern hang gliders were ruled out.

Up to 40 marks were to be awarded for the design and a further 70 for a successful airborne crossing of the river from the historic spot.

Berblinger's frame was made of fishbone. *This time entrants* used wood, wire, polycarbonate, bamboo and polystyrene.

The wings, more or less aerodynamic in shape, were either transparent, white canvas or gaily-coloured.

One machine, entered by the Laupheim youth centre, *simply consisted of* two parasols welded together.

But the entry was not accepted because it was submitted too late.

Others decide that discretion was the better part of valour and pulled out of their own accord.

Stuttgart University aerospace student Matthias Haisch, 24, was one. He took one look at the pad and said taking *part was out of the question.*

He and fellow-students had spent 2,000 man-hours on their device since February.

But now it was decided the risk of injury was simply too great.

But the early bath proved fairly harmless. Bundeswehr and fire brigade rescue teams were at the ready. The police fished the daring young men in their flying machines out of the murky water seconds after the cameras moved to the next competitor.

Twenty-one German and foreign TV camera teams were in Ulm for the event.

The winner, Rochelt, who made his *flight at five minutes to nine, nearly* three hours after the Wolfinger's leap into the water, was awarded the DM50,000 prize. His father, Günter Rochelt, is an aircraft designer and builder.

Harald Günter

(Die Welt, Bonn, 18 June 1986)

The seamy side

Continued from page 14

esn't suit the lady with the skintight leather shorts sat next to me.

She seemed rather irritated at my surprise and asked: "What's up? It's really cool." And, after all, looking for a place to live or earning money are "appointments" too, aren't they?

In reality, she tells me, she doesn't want to waste her time with money and doesn't know how to handle it anyway.

"If you give me DM30 I'll spend it in an evening, if you give me DM100 I'll spend it too, if you give me nothing I'll still get by."

So what does she do, go scrounging for money like the punks?

My question gets her really angry about the youngsters who start begging her for money in spring and then give up by summer.

"They get to know me by July," she says.

Annette Berr is proud of not living at anyone else's expense and doesn't mind *living off "left-overs".*

From the supermarket round the corner, for example, where food which has been stored too long is left outside.

"Sometimes you can pick up a whole pallet of yoghurts," she says, and ham which is a bit old is still edible.

Once again, one of the characters in her book voices her real thoughts:

"She didn't mind collecting empty bottles the whole day, whereas other felt they couldn't stoop down that far. Some days she got as much as DM100 back for the bottles."

Isn't that a bit exaggerated?

"Well," she says, "maybe DM100 is a bit too much." But DM60 is realistic.

Somehow she's always managed to "pull through" this way.

She found her easel outside in the junk, *for example, and it's easy enough to gather wood for heating.*

However, crime is not all that far away in some cases; after all, she says, the whole red-light district is just a "bunch of thieves".

It's hardly surprising that there are very few taboos in her stories.

She doesn't shy away from the topic of prostitution, for example, her own experience?

Her answer is evasive: "You sell yourself wherever you go".

Annette is familiar with emotions and toughness.

Despite the anti-bourgeois solidarity in Kreuzberg life there is no picnic.

In another part of her book we read: "That's the way things are, you build up a wall around you, piece by piece, so that life doesn't hurt too much."

When Annette talks about her problems in finding a place to live the wall starts crumbling.

People find it difficult to live with her, she admits.

After the people she shared a flat with told her she was living too withdrawn a life she moved out.

She often hangs around in her "shelters" (pubs), meeting-places for those who have dropped out of bourgeois existence.

Her book doesn't advise people how to manage without money.

"Those who need that kind of advice," she say, "find out elsewhere".

Her plans for the immediate future are to continue writing so that "people can see things through other eyes".

Her *favourite author is* Rudyard Kipling. She feels that his "Jungle Book", which she's read several times, is full of vivid language. She believes that everything has a meaning. If she didn't, she says, she "couldn't go on living".

Heilid Kaiser

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 15 June 1986)